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Libya

The two suspects in the Lockerbie case are "in good health," according to a British lawyer's report carried on London international radio and cited by JANA. A Libyan investigator, reacting to a WASHINGTON POST report, denied that the two suspects had been executed, SANA reported, while MENA added that the two may bring suit in a British court for the "distress the accusations have caused them." The suspects' lawyer, meanwhile, said it would be possible to conduct a trial of the men outside Libya, but not in the United States or Scotland, according to the London-based MBC television.

Iraq

Saddam's speech to the National Assembly was broadcast by Baghdad radio. In it, the president warned of the dangers of "defection," which he defined not in the usual sense, but as a deviation from the principles held by the people as a whole. People who "deal with commodities in a manner that increases burdens on people in their daily lives" are an example, he explained. The Istanbul paper HURRIYET published the second through fourth installments of an interview with Saddam, who said that "personal enmities cannot exist between two heads of state," including with President Bush. Among other topics Saddam discussed was that the lifting of UN sanctions would bring about an improvement in ties with Ankara; his July 1990 meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad; the desire by the superpowers not to avert the war; a Kuwaiti condition for border adjustments before the war broke out; and that "Mitterrand and Gorbachev misled me." Elsewhere, Baghdad's Voice of Palestine radio broadcast the founding statement of the "Ba'th Party in the Palestine region," a conference of which was held "somewhere in the Arab world in late January 1992."

Algeria

The Higher State Council's statement on the continuing university unrest was reported by Algiers television. The statement said the Council is studying the measures necessary to ensure order in the country, and praised the patriotism of those who did not participate in the unrest.

Egypt

"A fourth Israeli spy" was arrested, MENA reported, adding that an investigation is continuing into the group's knowledge of information regarding "political, economic, and military installations and Egyptian public figures." The issue of the Hala'ib area, disputed with Sudan, will be entrusted to a joint committee so that the "crisis" will not affect bilateral relations, a Sudanese diplomat told MAYU. Columnists in three publications criticized recent statements by Libya's 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. AL-AHRAM asked, "Who is expressing Libya's policy?" in view of Jallud's "contradictory" remarks. AL-JUMHURIYAH wrote that had it not been for al-Qadhdhafi, "we would have settled our account with (Jallud) very roughly." AKHIR SA'AH wrote that Jallud's status as second in command, combined with his recent "demagogic course," brings Libyan policy on the Lockerbie case into question.

Israel

The interior minister signed an order expanding the boundaries of Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem radio, which added remarks by the city's mayor that the expansion was not in the eastern, Arab, part of the city. The government is seeking to include 1992 housing starts that have been planned, but not begun, in its request for U.S. loan guarantees, 'AL HAMISHMAR disclosed. The Bank of Israel governor told Jerusalem television of the "extremely crucial" need for the guarantees. He was responding to a question about a recent statement by the finance minister, reported by Jerusalem radio, that the loan guarantees "are not crucial to Israel's future." The Foreign Ministry repeated its denial of involvement in the Egyptian spy affair, and

that "it would be nice if the Egyptians apologize," the radio disclosed. Shamir said that the territorial issue would not be part of upcoming talks on autonomy, adding that the talks would deal only with autonomy's administrative aspects, the radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat denied a CNN report about a remark, interpreted by Western media to be anti-Semitic, attributed to him in a conversation with the PLO representative in Paris. Speaking to MENA during a stopover in Cairo, the PLO chairman asserted that the conversation was recorded and dubbed by the French Government. The Jerusalem paper AL-MANAR reported that "Palestinian parties" have requested permission from Jordan to set up a television station that would broadcast to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jordan is studying the request and the "indirect supervision" that would be necessary, the paper continued.

Sudan

Lieutenant General al-Bashir dismissed Muhammad Khalifah from the Revolution Command Council and retired him on pension, Omdurman radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

A joint communique after sessions of the Saudi-Egyptian joint committee was reported by Riyadh television. The talks took place in an atmosphere of "frankness, friendship, and trust," the communique stressed.

Kuwait

The Air Force commander told a Defense Ministry journal that with the acquisition of F-18 aircraft, the country is now able to protect its airspace, KUNA reported.

Iran

The country will return to Kuwait six Airbuses seized during the Iraqi occupation, KUNA announced. Media authorities "regretted" a CNN role in the U.S. decision not to grant a visa to a prospective participant in a CNN seminar, IRNA reported.

Pakistan

The release of 58 people who were arrested trying to cross the Line of Control has ended the affair, "settling the whole issue peacefully," a local leader told Islamabad radio.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Denies CNN Report on Attributed Remark

NC1202223892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stopped over at Cairo Airport this evening on his way from Sanaa to Geneva. He was received at the airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah movement representative in Cairo.

In a statement to journalists, he said he will address the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on 13 February.

Replying to a question on why the Israeli Government postponed its participation in the next round of the peace talks [as received], he emphasized that this step was expected from the Israeli Government, which used the elections as a pretext to elude the peace process.

He said that he had made it clear that Shamir rejected Egypt's 10-point plan in 1991 and Baker's five points, and afterward agreed reluctantly to U.S. President George Bush's initiative but placed obstacles before it and set various conditions to it.

He added: Then when we began to discuss the basic points contained in the U.S. President's initiative—land for peace, Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, and the Palestinian people's political rights—Shamir called for elections.

'Arafat noted that the Israeli delegation that will participate in the next stage has no authority and that it will come to talk and repeat the same words. Yet, he said, we will go to Washington with the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian brothers with help from the brothers in Egypt who have great experience and expertise in facing this adversary to make the world live up to its responsibility to implement internationally legitimate resolutions without double standards.

The Palestinian president denied a report by the U.S. television channel CNN about the recording of a telephone call between himself and Palestinian representative in Paris Ibrahim al-Sus, asserting that it was dubbed. He said he actually spoke with al-Sus and expressed his belief that the conversation has been recorded by the French Government.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 2136 GMT reports "Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Geneva this evening after an approximately 40-minute stopover. Receiving and seeing off 'Arafat at the airport was Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif."]

Hawatimah Urges Full Palestinian Representation

JN1302100992 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Feb 92 p 14

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Excerpt] Amman—Responding to a question by AL-DUSTUR, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the proceedings of the Madrid, Washington, and Moscow meetings as well as the continuation or rather escalation of Israeli intransigence and the repressive settlement onslaught in our occupied territory make it incumbent on the concerned Arab parties, particularly Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, to carefully evaluate the situation, upgrade coordination and joint action, and agree on a unified political and negotiating strategy.

He said: The sessions of bilateral and multilateral talks proved that continuation of the current Arab fragmentation will only lead to the Israelis' continuation of their provocative policy—a policy which has added to its several well-known noes a new no to the autonomy formula mentioned in the Camp David accords as signed by Israel itself.

Hawatimah added: If Arab fragmentation continues and Shamir returns to power in Israel after the next Knesset elections, it is possible that the Israeli noes will increase and the Arabs will then either give in to Israeli conditions or withdraw from the entire process of negotiations.

Hawatimah said: No international pressure on Israel can be expected if the present Arab situation persists and if the U.S. Administration and Israel continue to deal with each Arab party individually, benefiting from the acute Arab contradictions and differences and the aftereffects of the Gulf crisis and war. It is horrifying to see the issue of Arab-Israeli normalization on the agenda of multilateral talks at a time when inter-Arab relations need to be normalized.

He said that the first Arab step required to confront Israeli intransigence and to pressure effectively the international community and the U.S. Administration itself lies in achieving a high degree of coordination among Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. This coordination should be based on an insistence on full representation of the Palestinian people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the diaspora during the bilateral and multilateral talks. It should also be based on adherence to the resolutions of international legitimacy and their well-known interpretation, and on an interconnection between the phases of a solution in order to prevent any separate or bilateral deals. Any participation in the multilateral talks should hinge on Israel's commitment to withdraw from all the territories occupied in and after 1967. [passage omitted]

PLO Aide Against Nonparticipation in Moscow

PM1102123792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Official Isolates Himself in Protest at Nonparticipation in Multilateral Negotiations"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian sources yesterday revealed that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has been in Morocco (until yesterday) since the convening of the Moscow conference for multilateral talks. And that he refused to return to his office in Tunis. And that President 'Arafat sent Hakam Bal'awi to Morocco to persuade him to return, but he did not respond by returning immediately. However, this does not mean that he will not return later.

Palestinian sources say that the Palestinian official isolated himself because he was not satisfied with the Palestinian delegation's refusal to participate in the Moscow conference—a decision taken by the Palestinian leadership under 'Arafat on the eve of the conference 28 January, following Washington's and Moscow's rejection of the participation of diaspora Palestinians, Jerusalem residents, and representatives from the occupied territories.

Abu-Mazin (Fatah) believes that any Palestinian can represent the Palestinians as long as he is authorized by the PLO and committed to its policy and guidance. Thus there is no reason to insist on a specific representation form that obstructs Palestinian participation in an inevitable peace process which it has been decided to join, because obstruction harms Palestinian interests.

Permission Sought for Palestinian TV in Jordan

TA1102150792 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 10 Feb 92 p 16

[Text] Palestinian parties have asked permission from the Jordanian Government to set up a Palestinian television station that would beam its broadcasts toward the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Jordanian Government is studying the request, as well as the nature of indirect supervision over the programs that would be broadcast by this station.

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Urges UN To Resume Talks, Lift Sanctions

JN1202211292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2029 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Geneva, 12 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti has stated that Iraq hopes it will resume its oil exports this year, but that the United Nations should understand Iraq's position and work out a date for talks on exporting Iraqi oil.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Geneva regarding Iraq's position on exporting its oil, the oil minister added that there was no change in Iraq's position, which was presented to the United Nations. He stressed that Iraq wants an honorable and practical solution.

He reiterated that it is up to the United Nations to either facilitate or complicate the possibility of reaching an agreement. He pointed out that Iraq, which was the world's second largest oil exporter, still hopes it will be able to return to the market this year.

Usamah al-Hiti also said: We are still asking the United Nations to lift the sanctions so we can export our oil freely and without any restrictions.

The minister predicted that oil prices will continue to drop if OPEC member states fail to agree to reduce oil production, which exceeds 24.3 million barrels per day.

Algeria

Islamist Students in University Disturbances

Bab Ezzouar Examinations Postponed

LD1202164792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Some disturbances have been noted at the universities in recent days. Demonstrations by Islamist students are in fact disrupting classes. This happened in Blida, Bab Ezzouar, and Constantine Universities. The Scientific Council of Bab Ezzouar met yesterday and decided to postpone the examinations to a later date. They should have begun today. The rectorship is meeting this morning and is examining the measures taken to ensure security on the campus and the smooth running of exams.

Annaba Students Stage Sit-In

LD1302101592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Now that the disturbances have moved to the universities, the National Council of Higher Education Lecturers yesterday urged all parties to avoid all activity, whatever its form or objective, which might trigger conflicts and violence in the universities. It is worth mentioning that Annaba University was the scene of disturbances yesterday, caused by a group of students who staged a sit-in outside the front door of the administrative department of the university in order to prevent workers and lecturers from going about their business.

Reports also indicate that the main doors of the educational centers and institutes affiliated to the central university in Sidi Ammar were closed yesterday morning by unidentified persons.

Widespread Rallies Reported

NC1302104992 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 13 (AFP)—Anti-government student protests erupted at four Algerian universities Thursday as security was reinforced in Algiers ahead of weekly prayers Friday and a planned march of supporters of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

There were contradictory reports, however, from Islamic circles about whether the march was still scheduled. Algeria is under a state of emergency and police have not authorized the protest demonstration.

The student demonstrations were at universities in Algiers, Blida, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the capital, and Constantine and Annaba, in the east, by fundamentalists from the Movement for the Respect of the People's Choice, university sources said.

Several hundred students had staged demonstrations in Algiers and in Constantine Wednesday after the arrest of six radicals suspected of killing six policemen in a terrorist ambush here on Sunday night.

The radio said the students in Constantine, eastern Algeria, had called a strike Wednesday after holding a rally in support of an Islamic state and brandished banners reading "The people do not just want bread".

The student groups, which number 1,000 out of 21,000 students in Algiers and 3,000 out of 19,000 in Constantine, gather daily on campuses to chant slogans hostile to the High State Committee ruling the country after canceling general elections the FIS was about to win.

In Annaba, fundamentalists have organized a sit-in at the university entrance and stopped people from going to work. The National Union of Algerian Students said in a communique: "There is tension at the university of Annaba which seems to be leading to a clash among students."

The atmosphere was tense throughout Algeria on Thursday.

Police stations in the capital were guarded by police armed with machine guns and shotguns. Key crossroads had barricades where police were stopping and checking cars, especially at night.

Police were nervous after two attacks earlier this week which left nine of their colleagues dead in Algiers and Bordj Menaiel, 70 km (42 miles) east of Algiers.

Early Thursday, unknown gunmen shot at a police station in Birkhadem, on the southern outskirts of Algiers, Algerian radio reported.

Rumors were circulating of other attacks against police and gendarmes.

Newspapers reported Wednesday that the wife of a policeman had been terrorized in her home by masked individuals looking for her husband's service pistol.

Higher State Council Issues Statement on Incidents

LD1202193592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Higher State Council today met under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf. [passage omitted] It issued the following statement:

The Council:

—pays tribute to the spirit of patriotism which was more clearly evident in the people vis-a-vis the troublemakers who worked to shake up public opinion, which adheres to its historical identity and Islamic values which defy tampering.

—studied, following the emergency session of the Higher Judicial Council on 11 February, the necessary measures which enables justice to carry out its tasks within the framework of strict respect for the law in order to

preserve the security of individuals, properties, individual and collective freedoms, and state properties.

Higher State Council Honors Victims of Unrest

LD1202190192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher State Council met today. At the conclusion of its meeting, the Higher State Council paid respect to the memory of all Algerian youths who died during the recent events. It also paid tribute to the spirit of dedication and sacrifice of the members of the security forces and noted the patriotic spirit shown by the people.

During the meeting, the Higher State Council also examined the appropriate measures allowing justice to accomplish within the strict respect of law its mission of safeguarding the security of persons and property, individual and collective liberties as well as the state's property.

Boudiaf—U.S., West Do Not 'Comprehend' Events

NC1202094692 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Nicosia, Feb 12 (AFP) - Algerian authorities may send envoys to the United States and other Western nations to dispel misunderstandings there of the current situation in Algeria, head of state Mohammad Boudiaf said.

"The United States and the West do not fully comprehend the situation," Boudiaf told the Paris-based Arabic-language radio station Al-Sharq. A text of the interview was made available to AFP in Nicosia.

The United States has expressed concern over the rising violence in Algeria, notably after the High State Council—of which Boudiaf is head—declared a state of emergency on Sunday following a weekend of clashes between security forces and Muslim militants.

Boudiaf told the radio that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) "could be dissolved, as could other parties, because the FIS wants to restore the authority of the state."

Authorities here on Sunday took steps to disband the FIS, an Islamic fundamentalist movement that was on the verge of winning legislative elections last month before they were cancelled by the government.

Boudiaf on Monday justified the state of emergency by accusing the FIS of fomenting violence.

But he said in the radio interview that the council had "no intention of dissolving or restricting the activities of the National Liberation Front," the former ruling party in Algeria.

Further Press Remarks on Boudiaf 10 Feb Speech

LD1202185692 Algiers APS in English 1200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers 12/02/92 (APS)—The dailies issued this morning tackle in their commentaries the speech made by the chairman of the High State Committee, Mohamed Boudiaf, made Monday. "Something new" is the title of the commentary of the daily "EL- WATAN" which considers that "the radical change" to which the Algerians aspire goes through the renewing of people who have occupied for a long time responsibilities. "Since three years, those who have incarnated (the system) and symbolized its bankruptcy continue to occupy high responsibilities emptying thus from their content all commitments", writes the daily which wonders "with whom does Boudiaf intend to operate the radical change?"

The daily "LE QUOTIDIEN D'ALGERIE" considers on its turn that the "the image of a society working at a double pace which was being set up in the country gave to citizens the [words indistinct]. [quotation mark as received] On its turn, the daily "LE-MATIN" deals again with the assassination of eight policemen and writes that "a great number of people attended their burial. The ceremony showed that the assassinations are not part of our customs." The daily underlines under the title "Return to Order" that "the truths said by Boudiaf do not please as they take out the reason d'etre of the rest of the Islamic parties which saw in them 'western statements'."

"Right to the aim" is the title of the daily "EL-MOUDJAHID" which underlines that Boudiaf "did not hesitate to denounce with strength and determination the ambivalent, anti-national and even immoral ambitions of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]." On its turn, "ALGER-REPUBLICAIN" considers that "before the deadly dangers, our people have understood that it was necessary to react in order to overcome all the attempts likely to set fire in the country."

Manager, Staff of French-Language Daily Resign

LD1202103792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] The manager of ALGER-REPUBLICAIN [French-language daily], Abdelmadjid Harbi, its chief editor Yocef Hadj Ali, and five of its journalists have announced their resignation. The resignations are attributed by the manager of ALGER-REPUBLICAIN, in a letter to readers, to the impossibility of continuing work at the newspaper after he was requested to leave his post by a delegation of the political bureau of the Socialist Vanguard Party, PAGS, on the one hand, and while all his partisan activities in that party had been suspended on the other hand.

It is worth noting that ALGER-REPUBLICAIN is a limited company, the major part of the shares in which are owned by militants of PAGS.

FFS Leader Urges Resumption of Election Process

LD1302100192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Hocine Ait Ahmed, the leader of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has appealed for a resumption of the election process, which he has described as the sure way to remove the Algerians from the whirlwind of violence. He emphasized that any foreign interference remains unacceptable.

In an interview with the daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Ait Ahmed said that the declaration of a state of emergency was unnecessary because the problems are of a political nature and hence require political solutions.

Arrests of Attack Suspects Continue

LD1202164192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The arrest of people implicated in the attacks on public order in the last few days have continued. Yesterday more arrests took place, especially in Tipaza. Here is Mouloud Zararga:

[Zararga] We have in recent days, after the declaration of a state of emergency, experienced an outburst of violent acts against the police and the citizens' security. After the lower Casbah and Bordj-Menaiel, where eight policemen and one Islamist died, the Birkhadem police station was yesterday swept by a burst of automatic gunfire. The police were not able to apprehend the culprits. However, six people who could belong to the organization Al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah, including a 21-year-old woman, were arrested yesterday in Attatba in the Tipaza Wilaya. Searches carried out in the group's cache resulted in the discovery of rifles, military uniforms, combat directives, and the plan of attack on a National Gendarmerie barracks.

These groups, some of whom, according to their passports, spent time in Afghanistan intended to attack a unit in the National Gendarmerie to get hold of weapons. According to the same sources they also planned to carry out sabotage against production areas to provoke food shortages before the month of Ramadan. According to a high state official quoted to the daily LE MATIN this group numbers 1,000 people. The Afghans are trained to carry out military and paramilitary operations equipped with firearms and knives.

According to an AFP report used by all the daily newspapers hundreds of Algerians were trained side by side with the Afghan guerrillas. This morning calm reigns over the country as a whole. Some shots were nonetheless heard this morning in the areas of Belharach, Belcourt, Premier Mai, and Bab El-Oued.

Armed Gang Arrested in al-Golea

LD1202203292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Officers from the National Gendarmerie arrested an armed group at Sidi Bouzid forest near al-Golea town. Some members of This group are still on the run, and are still being hunted by the forces.

Numerous arms caches were also discovered in the region. Our TV team had investigated the matter. [video clip shows men under arrest, various kinds of cold-steel weapons, some Afghan currency and a photocopier]

Sonatrach, Oil Companies Doing Business 'Normally'

LD1202180592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Energy Minister Nordine Ait Laoussine told the Algerian Press Agency that the contacts between Sonatrach [Algeria's oil and gas company] and 20 international oil companies are continuing normally. According to the energy minister, these contacts, which began last October, fall within the framework of the direct investments in the oil wells which are currently being exploited. These contacts, he added, are expected to result in the signing of contracts next April.

Egypt

'Fourth Israeli Spy' Arrested 12 Feb

NC1202182292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian security forces today arrested a fourth Israeli spy, called David Ovitz. He is an Israeli Jew who used to cooperate with the Israeli spy Faris Subhi Misrati, his daughter Fayiqah, and son Majid, who were recently arrested in Cairo and who confessed that they were agents for the Israeli intelligence service.

The security forces discovered that the Israeli spy arrived in Cairo two weeks ago disguised as a businessman. He made several visits to Misrati and his daughter in their apartment in al-Nuzhah district in Heliopolis, east of Cairo, and he assisted them in gathering information.

The security forces added that he also established relations with several Egyptian business families.

The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation.

Official security sources told MENA it has been discovered that Fayiqah Misrati, 17, daughter of Israeli spy Faris Misrati, suffers from AIDS. The security forces are looking for the persons who visited her at her apartment or went out with her to run the necessary medical tests on them to prevent the spread of the disease.

The Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office is continuing its interrogation of the four spies to determine the extent of their activities during their stay in Cairo, and the information they obtained about political, economic, and military installations and Egyptian public figures.

Mubarak Meets Deputies, Views Current Issues

NC1202195892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has called for positive and immediate measures to resolve the problem faced by depositors in capital investment companies, and urged that these companies be liquidated for the good of the depositors. He noted that a committee comprising government officials, legal experts, and some People's Assembly members has been formed to discuss proper legislation to liquidate these companies' assets and distribute the proceeds among the depositors.

President Mubarak made these remarks during his meeting with the members of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] parliamentary group in al-Daqahliyah, al-Sharqiyah, al-Minufiyah, and al-Qalyubiyah Governorates.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made a statement following the meeting, which was also attended by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr. Fathi Surur, speaker of the People's Assembly; several ministers; and members of the NDP secretariat. He said the meeting was held in the context of the president's desire to meet with NDP leaders in the governorates to discuss citizens' concerns, expound on national issues, follow up the results of party elections at this stage, and listen to any comments on the choice of local NDP leaders. [passage omitted]

Commenting on national action issues, President Mubarak referred to the achievements that have been made in the country. He said: We must admit that there are negative aspects that we must rectify. In this connection, we will listen to every opinion that is offered.

The president added that the government is seeking to uncover any kind of corruption, and welcomes attempts to shed light on corruption in any area or by any official. [passage omitted]

On the NDP's role in combating extremism, the president said that when the National Studies Center begins studying an issue, it must include ways to combat extremism.

On cooperation between specialized NDP committees and the government, President Mubarak noted the importance of such cooperation and said that the next economic development plan must be discussed by all NDP committees. He added that he will attend some of these meetings to listen and participate in the discussions. [passage omitted]

[Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 12 February carries a report on President Mubarak's meeting with the NDP deputies, adding: "In the foreign policy sphere, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the president answered all the questions posed by the deputies. On inter-Arab relations, the president emphasized that the relationship between Egypt and its Arab brothers is currently at its best, and that Egypt is seeking to heal the breach in Arab ranks caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He added that Egypt always seeks to safeguard its interests in the context of overall pan-Arab interests. He referred to the Egyptian role in preserving pan-Arab security on the grounds that Egypt is a basic and vital component of this security. He declared that Egypt's stance during the Gulf crisis illustrated ...a adherence to pan-Arab principles. The president explained that Egypt played its historical role, that it has no designs on anyone, and that its policy is one of nonintervention in any Arab or foreign country's internal affairs. He asserted that this policy is known to all countries, big and small. He explained that Egypt does not change its principles, which are an integral part of its people's values and heritage.

["On the peace process, the president stressed that Egypt's stance is founded on clear and definite principles, and said this was the basis of its participation in the peace process since the Madrid conference, the bilateral negotiations, and multilateral talks in which 36 countries are participating. The president explained that Egypt is using every possible forum to address world public opinion and mobilize support for our causes and inalienable rights. He said we must not despair, but become more determined to achieve peace as long as we do not abandon our rights and dignity and cling to a just peace. He emphasized the land-for-peace principle and said that Israel must adhere to international legitimacy and respect UN resolutions.

["On the international stance on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, President Mubarak referred to the clear Egyptian position that this issue be settled by dialogue and discussion with the United States, Britain, and France. He asserted that Egypt renounces all forms of terrorism and likewise opposes the use of force in resolving disputes among countries. He added that since the first moment, Egypt has made intensive efforts so that dialogue, discussion, and peaceful and logical methods replace dangerous confrontation in resolving this issue. He noted that this should be done in a manner showing that all parties respect international legitimacy.

["President Mubarak commented on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, noting that certain developments had some negative effects on them which a minority tried to exploit to provoke disputes between the two countries. He said what has happened does not affect the constant ties between the two peoples who have the power to contain and surmount everything that might adversely affect their eternal relationship.

["On relations with Africa and his recent tour there, the president said that Africa enjoys considerable Egyptian interest in the political, economic, and cultural levels."]

Sidqi Comments on Domestic Economic Situation

NC0802172592 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, commented at the People's Assembly session this morning on discussions by the committee tasked with replying to the government policy statement. The People's Assembly session was chaired by the speaker, Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

The prime minister affirmed that the government addresses problems in various areas with a planned and clear philosophy, to deal with the negative effects of previous policies that have led to accumulated problems. He said the state suffered from a lack of foreign currency necessary for obtaining essential goods and services. He noted that the government's effort to address the foreign currency problem by liberalizing its exchange rate concerning the prices of goods resulted in enough currency for the government to meet any demands.

He said all the government's measures and policies for more than three years have aimed to reduce inflation, the general budget deficit and demand [not further specified], and to increase production.

He asserted that inflation rates today do not exceed 16 or 17 percent, and that they will fall this year and in coming years. He noted that the government in past years tackled the unemployment problem by giving workers special allowances. He said these allowances will be added to the basic salary when the situation permits.

The People's Assembly has resumed discussion of the government policy statement.

Views Emergency Law

NC0802220492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has emphasized that the Emergency Law, which the opposition parties want abolished, does not affect freedom of expression. He said that the opposition papers (?publish) articles and subjects dealing with all matters in complete freedom.

Commenting at the People's Assembly on a speech delivered by Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the opposition and of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, Dr. Sidqi noted that the government's policy is to halt inflation and increase production. He indicated that in this respect that the rate of inflation in Egypt has fallen from 30 percent to 17 percent.

He said that the economic situation will improve in the coming years after implementation of the economic reform program.

In remarks before the People's Assembly, the prime minister said that there is a food shortage, but the government is hoping to remedy this. In this regard, he clarified that self-sufficiency has been realized in some crops, and there is currently overproduction of meat.

Dr. Sidqi said bread continues to be subsidized by the state, in addition to three other staple foods.

He affirmed that there is no way to restore balance in the Egyptian economy other than using the real values of products. He said this became clear through the implementation of the policy of liberalizing foreign currency exchange rates.

People's Assembly Member Khalid Muhyi-al-Din announced during the People's Assembly session today that he rejects the government statement. He demanded that the gross national product be increased and that the government continue to fix the prices of goods and services. It also should continue to subsidize staple foods and essential goods and form a higher council for prices and fees.

Foreign Minister, Delegation Depart for Riyadh

NC1102085992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning for Riyadh at the head of a ministerial delegation to the Egyptian-Saudi Joint Committee meetings, which will open today. The Saudi side is led by the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The Egyptian delegation comprises Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, finance minister; Dr. Yusri Mustafa, economy minister; Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; and Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research.

In a pre-departure statement, Musa said that the Egyptian-Saudi committee will discuss issues related to the situation in the Middle East and developments in the peace process. The committee will also discuss ways to promote and consolidate all aspects of Egyptian-Saudi relations; the implementation of the projects agreed upon; and progress in economic, trade, political, and cultural relations.

The Egyptian delegation was seen off at the airport by As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, the Saudi ambassador to Egypt.

Hala'ib 'Crisis' Delegated to Joint Committee

NC1202114192 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 10 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] MAYU has learned that there are no arrangements to hold an Egyptian-Sudanese summit, and that the visit to Cairo by Major General al-Zubayr

Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan, focused on means to improve relations between the two countries and discuss all issues, including the issue of the Egyptian region of Hala'ib.

Salah Muhammad Ibrahim, the information attache at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, stated that the issue of Hala'ib has been entrusted to joint committees so that it will not escalate problems between Egypt and Sudan. There is conviction that this crisis can be contained through dialogue.

New Trade Agreement Signed With Lebanon

NC0802141492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1251 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Egypt and Lebanon today signed a new trade agreement that will replace an earlier agreement, in force since 1956. Dr. Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, signed for Egypt and Marwan Hamadah, Lebanese minister of economy and trade, who is visiting Cairo, signed for Lebanon.

Dr. Mustafa said that the new agreement organizes trade relations and exchange between the two countries, noting that this exchange will be in hard currency. It also encourages participation in trade fairs and international markets and visits by businessmen. It provides for mutual facilities and gives shipping priority to the vessels owned by the two countries.

Dr. Mustafa added that the new agreement gives preferential treatment to several commodities exchanged by the two countries and provides for establishing a joint trade committee that will meet alternately in both countries at least once a year.

He added that in the context of the new agreement, a $14 million barter deal has been signed. He noted that the volume of trade between Egypt and Lebanon rose from $14 million in 1986 to $64 million in 1990. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese economy minister said that a council of Egyptian and Lebanese businessmen has been established. It will organize joint projects between the two countries.

Indians To Handle Egyptian Interests in Iraq

NC1002152192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has sent an official memorandum to Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, People's Assembly speaker, stating that in light of the break in diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iraq following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, an agreement was reached with the Indian Government under which the Indian Embassy in Baghdad will take care of the interests of Egyptian citizens in Iraq.

The memorandum says that several consultations and exchanges took place recently between the Foreign Ministries of both countries [not specified], allowing Egyptians living in Iraq to remain, despite being in violation of residency regulations. Egyptian officials assigned to work under the flag of the Indian Embassy have already left for Baghdad.

Minister Musa, in the memorandum published today in AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, said that instructions were given to the Egyptian Embassy in Amman to renew the passports of Egyptians living in Iraq upon request. Minister Musa said that the Foreign Ministry was always in touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Labor Organization to follow up on the affairs of the Egyptians in Iraq and to make sure that they are safe and that their rights are safeguarded.

The memorandum states that Egypt does not forget its sons wherever they may be, regardless of the circumstances. The memorandum notes that Egyptian diplomacy is performing its duties silently and with a deep sense of the responsibility it bears.

Columnist Urges Arab Unequivocal Stand on Iraq

NC1202152192 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Feb 92 p 8

[From the "Close Look" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Punishing a Mischievous Student"]

[Text] Egypt has clarified its position on the attempts to involve it in a plot which the United States is reportedly concocting to topple Saddam Husayn.

Egypt came out well when a responsible source said that it is not a party to any such plan, based on its commitment to its policies not to interfere in any Arab or foreign state's domestic affairs and on its respect for the people's will.

This clear-cut and respectable Egyptian stand must be adopted by all Arab countries, including those which suffered from the Gulf war and whose people were subjected to the Iraqi tyrant's destruction and his reckless motives, which exhausted and divided the Arab world.

This does not mean that there is anyone in Egypt who wants Saddam Husayn to stay in power or continue in authority over Iraq and its people. Giving a license to any foreign state, particularly a power like the United States—which is claiming the right to administer the world so that it can again interfere and use force under the pretext of trying to rescue Iraq and its people from Saddam's control—will be a grave precedent which might be used in the future, justly or unjustly.

Recent press reports indicate that Arab countries asked the United States to adopt measures to topple Saddam Husayn, and added that U.S. intelligence agencies and

forces are studying ways to achieve this goal, which some circles depicted as a means of support for President Bush in his election campaign.

In the wake of the Gulf war, we were among those who warned the U.S.-led allied forces against going beyond the UN resolutions, because this would give the United States responsibilities to which it is not entitled legally or internationally, particularly with U.S. and Western control of the Security Council and the United Nations.

The accusations against Libya, the West's insistence that it hand over two Libyans to stand trial in the United States or Scotland, and the threat of economic and military sanctions against Libya confirm that punishing the mischievous student as an example to the others is popular international thinking.

Even though President Bush has denied that CIA Director Robert Gates' mission in the region had anything to do with the plan to overthrow Saddam Husayn, Arab countries must nevertheless adopt a clear-cut and equivocal stand so that the Arab problems will not be used for U.S. gains.

Editorial on Iraqi Attempt To Evoke 'Sympathy'

NC1202140892 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Feb 92 p 5

[Editorial: "If You Do Not Feel Ashamed, Do What You Want"]

[Text] Rather than admit that it caused the Iraqi people's misery, and lived luxuriously and enjoyed one of the highest incomes before President Saddam Husayn became crazed for hopeless adventures in Iran and Kuwait, the ostracized Iraqi regime is trying to blame the Iraqi people's tribulation on U.S. President George Bush and the coalition leaders who were compelled to resort to force to expel the occupying Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Reports from Baghdad say that Iraqi television is waging a daily campaign against the U.S. President to convince the people that their suffering and pain can be blamed on foreign countries and on the economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Iraq for the Iraqi dictator's crime of invading Kuwait, looting it, and setting its oil wells on fire. The health minister in Baghdad has already said that economic sanctions and the consequences of the Gulf war caused the deaths of 100,000 Iraqis, one-third of them children, because of medicine shortages, malnutrition, and deteriorating health.

Iraqi officials are trying to evoke the world's sympathy by accusing the leaders of those countries which tried to get the aggressor Iraqi regime back under international law and make it comply with human and cultural principles, which it violated because it wanted to seize a peaceful Arab country. Not one of the officials who continue to control the fate of the helpless Iraqi people has tried to say that the blame lies with the braggart who still clings to the leadership, and with those who surround and support him despite the catastrophes and setbacks he inflicted on his country and people. These officials do not want to admit this because they know that their fate is linked to his, which he cannot escape.

An old adage says: If you do not feel ashamed, do what you want.

Matruh Governor Receives Libyan Official

NC1002131692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 10 Feb 92

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 10 Feb (MENA)—Matruh Governor Kamal Mansur today received Muhammad Hijazi, coordinator of Libyan-Egyptian relations [title as received], who is currently visiting Matruh.

Following the meeting, the Libyan official said that one million Egyptian farmers will be given land in southern Libya in accordance with an agreement signed by the two countries. He also noted that gasoline stations will be built along the Tobruk-Alexandria international road.

Muhammad Hijazi said that the volume of Libyan investments in Libya is expected to increase, and that 24 Libyan university scholarships will be offered to Egyptians.

Meanwhile, an agreement to link the electricity grids of Egypt and Libya into one network will be signed tomorrow, Tuesday, in Marsa Matruh. The link will cost $25 million.

Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and his Libyan counterpart will sign the agreement. The Libyan electricity minister is due to arrive in Cairo later today.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urged To Abandon 'Image'

NC1202100792 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Feb 92 pp 4-6

[By Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Libyan-U.S. Crisis; Search for a Solution."]

[Excerpts] Is there a right way out of the Libyan-U.S. crisis, which is escalating and getting more complicated? The Americans still insist that Libya unconditionally hand over the two men suspected of downing the plane over Lockerbie, while reason persuades the Libyans to go so far as to agree that the two be handed over to a third party which could guarantee them a neutral, international trial, free of any predetermination. The confrontation is growing amid a thick fog and great doubts which keep the two sides far apart. [passage omitted]

The best solution and the right way out is for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's words to be matched by clear-cut deeds that could save fraternal and neighborly Libya—home to 1 million Egyptians—from the possibility of military confrontation, the justifications for which could be

removed if the homeland's interests are placed above those of individuals, and above obsolete slogans.

If our Libyan brothers will permit me to say, all that anybody understands about the Libyan regime is that it is a labyrinth in which responsibility and legitimacy are lost in the people's committees, which presume a state can exist without a president or state institutions with clearly defined responsibilities. A state must have a president with Constitutional powers, a responsible government, a national army, institutions with clear jurisdiction, and embassies abroad subject to international and diplomatic norms.

If the Libyans once said they were ready to renounce all this for immediate unity with Egypt, they would find it worthwhile, for the sake of the Libyan homeland, to show a willingness to abandon the image that causes misunderstanding, gives rise to suspicion, and amplifies the ill will of others.

If our Libyan brothers will permit me, I say frankly that everybody must acknowledge the right to power sharing, grouping supporters and opponents in a truly national state framework. The need is greatest now that the era of the inspired leader with a monopoly on truth is over. The homeland can progress only if the regime and the opposition talk, searching together for the right path.

Some may say that these demands are not being made at the right time, but I say that the time is right because the greatest riddle Libya faces is its distorted image, which was not fostered only by the ill will of others.

If the U.S. stand requires caution and careful calculation of the consequences of a military confrontation in which there is no room for any reasonable solution, the Libyan stand, likewise, requires reason and sanity. The aim should be to avert the aggression and to recover from this huge mess the image of the new Libya, portrayed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi as he reintroduced himself to the world. We are experiencing a fateful crisis that is targeting a second Arab country—a fraternal and neighborly one—for which we wish security, stability, and welfare.

Disparity in al-Qadhdhafi, Jallud Stands Viewed

NC0702160892 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Feb 92 p 9

["Mere Opinion" column by Salah Muntasir: "Libya's Unity First"]

[Excerpts] One of the dreams Colonel al-Qadhdhafi continues to pursue is union with Egypt. He is a unionist president by nature. He has embarked on a large number of experimental unions with other countries over the past 22 years, but regrettably, all of them failed.

We wish to see Libya achieve a united leadership. It is incomprehensible to observe Colonel al-Qadhdhafi saying one thing and pursuing one policy while Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud comes out with contradictory statements reflecting a different policy.

It is possible to have differences of views within any ruling group, and such differences do in fact exist in most countries. But when a state's policy is set, these differences disappear and each official becomes bound to speak in favor of the approved policy. Unfortunately, this is not what we see in Jallud's statements. [passage omitted]

Anyone who has followed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's statements for the past few months can see he has developed greatly as a responsible president. One important development has been his statement denouncing all forms of terrorist actions, and his recognition of the political and global developments of recent years that have affected the balances of power, the Palestinian issue, and the peace talks that began in Madrid. Although these peace talks have not yet achieved results, they remain the arena for all the battles the Arabs want to wage to achieve a just peace.

But anyone hearing the statements of Jallud, the second man in Libya, is so astonished they ask themselves: Who is expressing Libya's policy?

Jallud's view is that all those who went to the Madrid talks are traitors, "even though it was the first time all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinians, go together." Additionally, while he is aware of the gravity of the crisis facing his country as a result of the accusations leveled against it in the issues of the crashes of the American and French planes, he declares he will ruin America and destroy all its interests in the region and the world. In other words, he persists in the terrorist and sabotage operations that have caused the predicament in which Libya now finds itself. He does this despite the Security Council's unanimous resolution, something that did not happen even during the Iraqi crisis. Still, Jallud continues to threaten while al-Qadhdhafi continues to appeal.

Jallud Warned of 'Heavy Price'

NC1102050892 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 92 p 16

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: " 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud Persisting With the Offense. They exposed your lies and trickery in Turkey. How long will you continue to cause your country problems? You will pay a heavy price for your insolent vituperations against Egypt. Be assured that, if not for the colonel, we would have settled our account with you very roughly"]

[Excerpt] When Egyptian-Libyan relations returned to normal, Libyans were very happy because they understand that the ties between us are based on brotherhood, neighborliness, and kinship. I met several of them recently and they all spoke bitterly of the painful

estrangement, expressing hope that nothing more will mar relations, since it will take many years to overcome this estrangement.

On the other side, we in Egypt are also eager to see better relations, so we sometimes ignore trivial matters and the intentional or unintentional acts of individuals. Goals cannot be achieved without sincere intentions and straightforward efforts.

Thus it is amazing to see Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud continually attacking Egypt, voicing the vilest abuse against it and its people.

We have warned Jallud repeatedly; unfortunately he has ignored us. Insulting the Egyptian people is part of his daily routine, both in private and public.

This Jallud is an unstable person, shortsighted, poorly educated, and his recklessness has caused his country many problems. For example, he thinks the Libyan Popular Army is capable of a military confrontation with the United States, the sole superpower. He refuses to recognize peace talks with Israel because the territories are occupied and can only be retrieved by force. But at the same time he does not say who possesses or is capable of using this force.

Britain is now publicly accusing Libya of giving money and equipment to the Irish Republican Army. The main reason for this accusation is Jallud's torrent of words. He has said repeatedly that his country backs liberation movements.

'Abd-al-Salam visited Turkey a few days ago, where he was reproached and accused of aiding the Kurdish Workers Party, which recently escalated its military activities against the Turks in an attempt to secede and establish a Kurdish state. The reckless man leapt theatrically from his chair to deny it. But Turkish officials confidently said: We have the documents and evidence that confirm your involvement. He was at a loss, his duplicity exposed. Such a person deserves no respect.

The problem now is that Jallud is regarded as the protege of Libya's revolution leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The world does not differentiate between the two and logic dictates that Jallud's statements express the colonel's stands, otherwise things would be different.

Therefore, we do not know how Libyan officials deny 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud's insolent statements against us. Do they know that the man is suffering from a mental imbalance that makes his statements and actions reckless and foolish? If so, why do they keep him and fail to control him? Is it true that the second man, as they call him in Libya, is backed by a group of militias, making it difficult to exclude him from the ruling circle? Or does he reflect—and we rule this out completely—the undeclared official view?

In any case, I tell Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud: Egyptians have been and will remain the leader and teacher. Neither you nor anyone else can criticize or censure our policies because the cultural gap between us is very wide. If you had even an ounce of good intentions, you would have removed this wave of terror threatening the security of the sons of your country. Every day they expect a sudden military strike in punishment for a wrong that you, not they, have committed through your stupidity and shortsightedness.

We undoubtedly respect brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. Let Jallud be assured that had it not been for our esteem for the colonel, we would have settled our account with him very roughly. Time will tell. [passage omitted]

Jallud's Stand Questioned

NC1102094292 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 5 Feb 92 pp 3-5

[By Wajdi Qandil: "The Question of Jallud: Where the Libyan-U.S. Crisis Is Headed."]

[Excerpts] It seems that the Western states are bent on continuing to escalate the Libyan-U.S., or "Lockerbie," crisis. It also seems that some Libyan leaders, such as Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, are not helping defuse the situation but are escalating it to the point of a military action against Libya. Meanwhile, desiring to avoid such a course of events, Egypt is trying to calm the Western states and defuse this powder keg.

Jallud's unrestrained behavior exceeds the limits of reason and flexibility. This is in contrast to the policy Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has pursued from the beginning of the crisis. Jallud's provocative statements have pushed the situation to a dangerous limit. They have brought the region to the brink of a military showdown, which might result in another cycle of violence similar to the Gulf crisis and its aftermath.

The problem is that Major Jallud is subservient to al-Qadhdhafi and to the Libyan regime, of which he is a member. He is the second in command in Libya and a member of the Revolution Command Council. Thus, he is creating a "duplicity" in the Libyan stand and is pushing the other parties in the crisis to cast doubt on Libyan intentions and on the course of calm and understanding pursued by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The question is: In whose name is Jallud speaking? Is he representing himself or is he representing various and conflicting factions in the Libyan regime?

Libya is accused of terrorism. It is in Libya's—and the Arabs'—interest to keep the crisis from reaching a flashpoint and the use of force by the United States, Britain, and France, especially after passage of the "unanimous" UN Security Council resolution, which gives legal international cover for such an action.

Being the second man in Tripoli, Jallud should understand this. He should have supported al-Qadhdhafi's policy, helping create an atmosphere of calm to resolve the crisis. Instead, he continues his demagogic course, which gives Libya's enemies the chance to carry out

retaliation—be it military or economic—dealing a deadly blow to the al-Qadhdhafi regime and the Libyan people.

What is puzzling in the Libyan stand is that Jallud's remarks call for tilting at windmills, for confronting the United States and its British and French allies, and for arming groups to face any U.S. aggression against Libya. Such talk will not make the Security Council reverse its resolution and will not scare the United States. On the contrary, it will lead to provocation and mistrust of the policy of caution and flexibility displayed by al-Qadhdhafi, who is concerned about Libya and does not want to see it subjected to the lurking danger.

If Jallud had any political wisdom and understanding of the dimensions of the situation, he would help Colonel al-Qadhdhafi promote the mediation efforts undertaken by Egypt and other Arab parties, to take the crisis out of the cycle of military confrontation between two unequal forces. In his capacity as an official in the Libyan regime, he should have offered help to ensure that Libya does not enter a horrible incinerator as happened to Iraq and the Iraqi Army. [passage omitted]

As I said, Jallud's irresponsible statements lead to a "duplicity" in the Libyan stand, complicate the crisis, and harm Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's credibility in the eyes of the West. During his visit to Iran, Jallud issued public threats that Libya would arm Arab and Islamic movements to retaliate against the United States if Libya is subjected to a U.S. aggression. He also threatened that the battle would extend to Arab and Islamic capitals!

What is strange is that Saddam Husayn made the same miscalculation in measuring the reaction to the Gulf crisis and the mobilization of the U.S. and Allied forces in the "Desert Storm" operation to expel the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. This led to exacerbation of the crisis and to the defeat and destruction of the Iraqi Army because of Saddam's arrogance and light-headedness. Consequently, the Iraqi people are suffering through blockade and hunger.

What is strange is that Jallud has not learned the lessons of the Gulf crisis. He is playing the same role Saddam played before. He is working to escalate the crisis at a time when it is about to be resolved, thanks to the efforts of President Mubarak and his extensive contacts with the other parties, and also thanks to the course of calm and flexibility pursued by al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

Columnist Criticizes U.S. Pressure Over Libya

NC0802102392 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jan 92 p 6

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "A Heavy American Hand"]

[Text] It is not in the interest of the Arab states to yield to everything American diplomacy wants and to be resigned to achieving purely American objectives that could weaken and divide them.

We do not say that the Arab world can challenge or antagonize the United States. It could not before, and it is even less likely that it could do so today, following the changes in the world order, the end of the cold war, and the eclipse and division of the Soviet Union, and in view of near total Arab security and economic dependence on the United States.

Today, more than at any other time, the United States needs for someone to shake his hand, his head, or even his tail as a sign of rejection and disapproval, because as the sole superpower, people are starting to believe it can impose any position or view that it wants on the world and insist that what it wants is right.

We must not imagine that American hegemony and the establishment of a strong international consensus between the United States and its traditional allies in Europe and Japan mean that there are no differences between Washington and, say, Paris, Tokyo, or Bonn. But these countries, which are powerful and which possess political will, can resist or make peace, and can be intransigent or flexible, to safeguard their interests.

The Arab states cannot even express their displeasure or disapproval of U.S. measures which they consider arbitrary.

Whatever the suspicions about Libya's involvement in the two civilian aircraft crashes, U.S. insistence on denying Libya's right to a fair trial for the two Libyan defendants; its attempt to force Libya to hand them over to a second state, contravening legal practices and conventions; and its success in securing a unanimous UN Security Council resolution, for which an Arab state, Morocco, voted, means that there is no limit to the pressure which U.S. diplomacy will exercise.

Even those who do not like al-Qadhdhafi and who do not support his style of government are incensed that the sole superpower should exercise its diplomatic pressure on the Arab world in this way, because if a neutral investigation proved Libya's guilt, the Libyan regime would fall even without these unjust, arbitrary measures.

Misr al-Fatah Leaders Dismissed, Replaced

NC1102083892 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] The new Misr al-Fatah Party leadership council met under the chairmanship of Husam-al-Din Kamil and made the following three important decisions:

1. To send a letter to the speaker of the Consultative Council advising him that he should deal with the new council following the dismissal of 'Aliy al-Din Salih's as party leader;

2. To send a second letter to the chairman of the Higher Press Council informing him that Fathi al-Shaykh

Muhammad has been appointed chief editor of the MISR AL-FATAH newspaper following the dismissal of Mustafa Bakri;

3. To send a third letter to the chairman of the AL-AHRAM establishment, asking him to stop printing the MISR AL-FATAH newspaper until the appointment of the new chief editor is approved.

Three libel cases have been filed against 'Ali al-Din Salih and Mustafa al-Bakri for having misquoted Ibrahim Zaydan, the party's deputy leader, in an article published in the paper. Zaydan has denied saying anything.

Libya

Briton Says Lockerbie Suspects 'In Good Health'

LD1202145992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] London, 12 Feb (JANA)—The BBC radio has quoted a British lawyer, Stephen Mitchell, as saying that he saw the two Libyans implicated in the Lockerbie affair last night.

The radio reported that the lawyer indicated the two men were in good health and that he had talked to them.

Finally, the radio pointed out that the British lawyer was currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Court Official Denies Suspects Executed

JN1202173692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Feb (SANA)—Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, the consultant at the Libyan Supreme Court assigned with investigating the bombing of an American airplane in 1988, has denied claims made yesterday by the U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST that the two Libyans accused in this incident were executed.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Tripoli at noon today, al-Zawi said: This news is fabricated and has no basis in truth.

He added that the two individuals were summoned for trial and interrogation a few days ago. He noted that nothing new has emerged during the course of the interrogation regarding the bombing of the American airplane, and that he has not received any response to his request for material evidence in the case from the American and British sides.

Suspects May Sue for 'Distress'

NC1202174692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Feb (MENA)—Counselor Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawi, the magistrate investigating the allegations against Libyans in the crash of the Pan Am plane in Lockerbie in December 1988, has described as completely groundless the report by the U.S. paper THE WASHINGTON POST that the two defendants in question were executed.

Al-Zawi told a MENA correspondent that Stephen Mitchell, a well-known British lawyer and leading law expert, met the two defendants—al-Amin Khalifah and 'Abd-al-Basit Makhimah—at the office of the defendants' lawyer Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl last night.

Al-Zawi said that the two defendants also came to the Higher Court officers three days ago, adding: We summon them according to the needs of the investigation.

MENA has learned that there is a possibility that Mitchell may file a lawsuit on behalf of the defendants in a British court, demanding compensation for the distress the accusations have caused them.

Al-Zawi said that there has been no new developments concerning the Pan Am case, that he has not been informed about the contents of the black box, and that he had not received the information he requested from the British authorities.

Lawyer Says Trial Abroad 'Possible'

NC1202193392 London MBC Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, a Libyan lawyer who is defending the two Libyans accused of bombing a U.S. plane, has said that it is possible to try the two men outside Libya, but not in the United States or Scotland. The Libyan lawyer said that he opposes the extradition of his clients but he does not object to their being tried anywhere other than the United States or Scotland, where they may be subjected to an unfair trial.

UN sources said that Libya informed UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali that it is ready to cooperate with a French investigation into the crash of a French plane in Niger in 1989.

Syrian Backs Libya Over 'Colonialist Campaign'

LD1102210992 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, an Nawar [February] 11, JANA - ARAB MAGHREB UNION'S POOL—Syria has again confirmed her support for the Great Jamahiriyah in the face of the neo-colonialist attack which is aimed at in forcing imperialist domination and hegemony on the Arab nation its wealth and to destroy its civilization. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam the Syrian vice president said in a meeting today in Damascus with the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress that Syria and Libya's destiny are one that they are facing the same dangers and we are standing with all what we possess and with all willingness to support the Great Jamahiriyah in her brave confrontation with this unjust colonialist campaign.

The Syrian vice president praised the objective policy and the civilized stance adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah to solve the two incidents of the American and French airlines affirming that these methods gained the appreciation and admiration of all peace loving peoples. Mr. Khaddam announced that Syria is currently working towards and is actively working on all levels in order to explain the rational policy taken by the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis the case and in order to clarify it on an international and regional level.

North Korean Envoy Voices Support

LD1202224192 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Al-Nowar [February] 11 (JANA-ARAB MAGHREB UNION)—The ambassador of Democratic Korea to the Great Jamahariyah praised the leader of the revolution's efforts towards Korean unity. In a report to JANA today he highly appreciated the friendly relations and progressive cooperation between the Great Jamahariyah and North Korea and stressed the importance of its development in the interest of both sisterly nations. The North Korean ambassador stressed the condemnation of Korea to the colonialist imperialist campaign against the Great Jamahariyah.

Visiting Cuban Condemns 'Onslaught'

LD0702203492 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 7, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Jose Ramon Fernandez the vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahariyah.

In a statement to JANA's correspondent, the vice president said that he and his accompanying delegation are pleased to be in the Great Jamahariyah.

He also strongly condemned the neo-colonialist onslaught against the Great Jamahariyah.

Azerbaijani Finance Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD1202212492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 February, JANA—Brother Badir Dzhamil Ogly Karayev, the Azerbaijan Republic finance minister, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon with his delegation to take part in the 16th annual meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank, which will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, brother Badir Dzhamil said that he would like to acquaint himself with the Jamahiriyah's economic experiment during this visit. He added that the visit would also be an opportunity for him to meet with economic ministers from the Islamic world in order to bolster and strengthen cooperation between Azerbaijan and the other Islamic countries in the world in all fields.

Scientific Research Official Sees Iranian Minister

LD0902222692 Tripoli JANA in English 1626 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Scientific Research met this morning with Mostafa Mo'in, Iranian minister for culture and scientific research.

A number of issues regarding scientific research and cooperation in this field between the two countries were discussed.

Libyan-Iranian Committee Holds Preparatory Meeting

LD0902133492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA)—The expert-level preparatory meeting for the fourth session of the Libyan Arab-Iranian Joint Committee convened this morning at the al-Mahari Hotel. The meeting dealt with the review and the study of the prospects of future cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Iranian Republic in various fields. [passage omitted]

Sudan

RCC Member Khalifah Dismissed, Pensioned Off

EA1302102792 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir has issued a decree dismissing Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah from his post as an RCC [Revolution Command Council] member. His excellency also issued a decree sending him into retirement on pension.

RCC's al-Zubayr Returns From Egypt, Comments

EA1202202092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Feb (SUNA)—The deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, returned here Tuesday [11 February] from Cairo, concluding a three-day official visit to Egypt.

Salih, in arrival statement, pointed out that the visit has affirmed that the Sudanese-Egyptian relations are eternal, saying that his talks with the Egyptian leaders were concluded in a healthy and frank atmosphere.

He noted that joint organs would be established to follow up the progress and promotion of the bilateral relations, saying that the economic cooperation between the two

countries are progressing in a satisfactory manner in accordance with the agreement and protocols concluded between them.

Major General Salih has explained that the two sides have reached a frank and clear understanding on Hala'ib issue, agreeable to both parties, saying that the issue is considered as a question of sovereignty, which is governed by the conventions and agreements.

Major General Salih stated that the joint organs and channels of contacts would be set up to deal with all issues pertinent to the relations between the two countries, saying that will help dispel the clouds over these relations.

Salih has said that he expects the convocation of a summit meeting between the two countries. Describing his meeting with President Mubarak as fruitful and positive [as received].

The RCC deputy chairman, said that the channels of contacts between the two countries, which were agreed upon during his meeting with President Mubarak, would help put the Egyptian-Sudanese relations on the right (?path) and eliminate suspicions shown by ill-intentioned circles to wreck these relations.

He denied that the issue of oil prospection in Hala'ib area was raised during the visit.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Deputy Premier Dr. Yusuf Wali, said that the relations between the two countries did not witness a freeze during the past period, adding that joint cooperation has continued in all domains.

Further on al-Zubayr Remarks

EA1202205592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 12 Feb (SUNA)—The Egyptian officials have shown keenness to promote relations with the Sudan in all fields, said the deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

He said in a meeting with pressmen here Wednesday [12 February] on his recent visit to Cairo that he has frankly discussed with the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials all issues of mutual concern. The two sides have agreed to establish a joint organ responsible for discussing all points of conflict between solutions for (?them), he added [sentence as received].

Major General Salih said he reassured President Mubarak that the Sudan will never endanger the security of Egypt, (?and) that the Sudanese people have not been known for practicing terrorism.

On the issue of Hala'ib Major General Salih noted that he agreed with President Mubarak on settling the problem within the (?political) and legal channels and in a way that (?avoids) aggravation of the issue by the hostile media.

He indicated that he reaffirmed [to] President Mubarak of the speciality and firmness of the ties between the Sudan and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Prime Minister Views Issues With Iraq

PM1202160492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

[Anwar al-Yasin report: "Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Tells SAWT AL-KUWAYT: 'We Will Not Forget the Stances of Those who Stood Against Us; Let There Be No Talk of Reconciliation With Them'"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has called on the international community to continue to put pressure on Iraq to free Kuwait's sons held hostage by the Iraqi regime.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT he said that the government was making every effort to follow up this case in all international forums. His highness also said that the issue of demarcating the borders has been entrusted to the committee formed under a Security Council resolution and headed by the former Indonesian foreign minister and that the committee is continuing its work. [passage omitted]

On the demarcation of the borders with the Iraqi regime, his highness the heir apparent said that the Security Council adopted a resolution on the border issue comprising several clauses, most notable among which is one on working to demarcate borders—not dictate them.

His highness added: The committee entrusted with following the issue and implementing the Security Council resolution is continuing its meetings to discuss all the details of the issue and to prepare the maps and drawings. It has made good headway and will convene a meeting soon. [passage omitted]

His highness stressed that Kuwait has no intention of making contacts with those who stood against us. He said: We announced our clear position during the Islamic conference on solidarity with the prisoners in Kuwait last month. That position was announced in the name of every Kuwaiti citizen.

With regard to some people's urging to "let bygones be bygones", his highness the heir apparent said: "We reject that slogan completely. It is not part of our vocabulary. And to demand that the Kuwaiti people—who suffered murder, terror, plunder, and oppression—observe it is unnatural and unacceptable. Those who are demanding this from us us seem to have forgotten the fires, theft, and destruction which our institutions suffered; what our oil installations suffered; and the effects of the oil fires on the environment. Despite all this, some Arab states want us to forgive... That cannot happen!!"

With regard to the siege on the Iraqi regime in Baghdad and the possibility of its collapse, his highness said: "With regard to whether the leader of the Iraqi regime remains in Baghdad, we leave that to the Iraqi people. Anyone who witnesses the Iraqi people's suffering and the killing, dispossession, oppression, and mass murder to which they are exposed can say that a bloodthirsty regime like that cannot continue."

First Phase of Air Base Project Near Completion

LD1202183292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1619 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Feb (KUNA)—Staff Brigadier General Dawud Sulayman al-Ghanim, commander of the Kuwaiti Air Force, has stressed that Kuwait is able to protect its airspace, especially now that it has obtained F-18 aircraft.

In an interview in the latest issue of HUMAT AL-WATAN magazine, which is published by the Defense Ministry's Department of Moral Guidance and Public, al-Ghanim said that after the first phase of the Kuwaiti airbases is completed in August, the Air Force will reach the peak of its combat readiness. [passage omitted]

As for the strategy of the Kuwaiti Air Force during the coming period, Staff Brigadier General Dawud al-Ghanim pointed out that studies are presently taking place to assess the Air Force as a whole, including its aircraft. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit by Greece's Mitsotakis

Received by Amir, Prime Minister

NC1202215092 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] His highness the amir received Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and his delegation at 1545 today on the occasion of his visit to the country on an official invitation from His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister received Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis and his delegation in his office at Bayan Palace at 1600 today. Talks between the two countries then began. [passage omitted containing indistinct portions]

The talks focused on the good ties between Kuwait and Greece and ways to promote them [words indistinct] in addition to other issue of mutual concern.

Prime Minister, Mitsotakis Hold Talks

LD1202211992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1852 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Feb (KUNA)—Official Kuwaiti-Greek talks began here this evening under the chairmanship of Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh S'ad al- 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and Greek Prime Minister Constandinos Mitsotakis, in the presence of both countries' delegations. The talks focused on

the good relations between the two countries and the means for their consolidation at the various levels, in addition to other issues of common interest. Moreover, Greek officials accompanying the Greek prime minister on his current visit to Kuwait held talks with Kuwaiti officials on economic matters, oil, planning, industry, electricity, and water.

The Greek prime minister arrived in Kuwait earlier today within the context of his current tour of the region, which so far has taken him to Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Saudi-Egyptian Committee Meeting Concludes

Cooperation, Trade Protocols Signed

LD1202230792 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] At the end of the fourth session of the joint Saudi-Egyptian committee on bilateral cooperation the minutes of the Saudi-Egyptian Council meeting, the protocol on scientific and technological cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the protocol on including new commodities in the lists of the exempt goods appended to the agreement on economic, trade, investment, and technical cooperation between the two countries was signed.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa signed the minutes of the meeting of the Saudi- Egyptian business council which was approved by the joint Saudi- Egyptian committee on bilateral cooperation.

Also, Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and Egyptian Finance Minister Muhammad al-Razzaz signed a protocol adding new commodities to the lists of the goods which are exempt and appended to the economic, trade, investment, and technical agreement.

Final Communique Read Out

LD1202234192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Saudi-Egyptian joint committee concluded its work at noon today. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the meeting the final communique was read. The communique pointed out that the two sides reviewed the various Arab, Islamic, and international issues of mutual interest and expressed their pride in the spirit of fraternal solidarity and principled cohesion which were shown by their standing on the side of right, the principles of international law, and their contributions to the expression of international will. They also noted the implementation of the international legitimacy's resolutions which were crowned by success in liberating the State of Kuwait and restoring its freedom, sovereignty, independence, and legitimate government.

They also renewed their commitment to and insistence on full implementation of all the UN Security Council's resolutions concerning Iraq's aggression against the State of Kuwait.

The two sides reiterated their insistence on their Pan-Arab and historic commitment to secure the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people, at the forefront of which is the right to self-determination; to continue to push forward the peace process; and to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict according to the principles of international legitimacy and the principle of land in exchange for peace.

The two sides praised the serious and constructive stands represented by the comprehensive Arab support to the peace process.

The two sides denounced Israel's arbitrary policies against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and condemned the resolution adopted recently by the Israeli Government to expel a number of Palestinians. This is considered to be a blatant violation of international law and of the fourth Geneva convention. The two sides called for the intervention of the UN Security Council to put an end to such violations.

The two sides welcomed the positive developments in fraternal Lebanon and the achievements of the Lebanese Government in national reconciliation and in preserving the independence of Lebanon, its territorial integrity, and its sovereignty. The two sides also called for the complete and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council resolution No. 425 and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon without linkage to a solution of the Middle East problem.

The two sides expressed their extreme concern over the current events in fraternal Somalia, the grave situation arising from them in the Horn of Africa, and the human suffering of the fraternal Somali people. They appealed to all the concerned Somali sides to put national interests first.

In the economic field, the two sides underlined the importance of the role of the private sector and businessmen in both countries in consolidating the process of economic, trade, and industrial cooperation.

The communique reviewed the achievements in cooperation and exchange of expertise in all fields. They pointed out that the committee's consultations took

place in an atmosphere of frankness, friendship, and trust which reflects the depths of fraternal ties between the two fraternal countries.

They pointed out that the fifth session of the committee will be held in Cairo in October 1992.

United Arab Emirates

Greek Prime Minister Arrives on 'Short Visit'

JN1302094392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0912 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAKH)—Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a short visit to the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Prime Minister, 'Arafat Note 'Brotherly Relations'

JN1202133392 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas met this morning with brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

During the meeting, they reviewed brotherly relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas, as well as international efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, member of the Advisory Council; Yahya Rabah, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Sanaa; and Bu-Humayd, commander of the Sabra Camp.

Saddam Addresses Assembly on 'Unjust Blockade'

JN1202201392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 12 Feb 92

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at the National Assembly in Baghdad on 12 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We thank God for permitting us to meet again after more than one year, under this dome, on which the name of God is written. History will certainly consider this type of will, and will also bless the resolutions you have passed in the name of the people. More that than a year ago, many good people had many ideas in their minds that satisfied God, as well as good people. In return, evil people had yellow dreams and dreams of other colors that satisfied no one except their devils.

Almighty God's will is stronger, however. Through your compliance with God's will, the path of good and virtue, and principles, Almighty God enabled you to confront all the capabilities of the tyrant, his supporters, and the traitors and charlatans who were considered part of the nation. As a result, you emerged lofty and strong. The foam passes uselessly, while what is useful for people remains. Just as Almighty God wanted to prepare the Muslims for a certain standard to strengthen faith in their hearts, and entrench their will to carry principles to the farthest point in the world, He wanted to create in you, as we see and believe, what He created in the early Muslims to strengthen your will; deepen your experience; guide you all, including myself, to the best ways to achieve the principles; and promote the people to higher meanings of virtue, satisfying Almighty God.

If we search, we will find evidence in Islamic history that if Muslims are tested with the following question—Do you want the difficulties, or will you choose an easier way?—all but a few will choose the easiest way. But after they experience all the difficult ways and pass the examination, they are asked: Would you have preferred the easiest way or thank God for the more difficult way you took, and from which you emerged successfully, [applause] except for a few, they would have said that they thank God for the way He had chosen and that they do not prefer any other way.

Thus, brothers and sisters, if you ask yourselves some time in the future which path you would prefer—the path which God has chosen for you and your people, notwithstanding the great difficulties it entails; or an easier path, which does not leave a deep imprint in history and which has no significant meaning with God, a meaning that would increase your reward by Him—you would choose the same path you have chosen and you would, God willing, make the same decisions you have made in this very hall. These are the laws of God and nature. Days go by and new days come, some of which we like, some we do not. The final decision on what these days carry is in the hands of God, the one and only.

At any rate, the days that go without making sacrifices have no taste and do not leave a deep imprint on history. Nor do they have any great meaning in terms of the reward which God has promised to the believers. The heavy, difficult days have a greater meaning and leave a greater imprint on the life of people. They leave a greater mark in the book of peoples on the path of glory, pride, and great principle.

The traitors' children will envy your children for the position their fathers took. The traitors' grandchildren will also envy your grandchildren for the position their grandfathers took. This is what will remain: Two positions. When recalled, one of these positions will be a source of pride, the other a source of shame.

What a great state of affairs you have reached as a people and a nation, and even on the level of humanity. You undoubtedly hear the voices that are raised despite all weights laid on them by Zionist media—I say Zionist media because any media in the world which deviates from the correct position does so as a result of Zionist influence. I say that your stand is admired and has become a model to be followed on the level of humanity. What a glorious position God has chosen for you, for this generation, and for your children and grandchildren!

I acknowledge, know in detail, have embedded within my heart and conscience, and feel the burden which our great people are shouldering because of the unjust blockade, imposed by the evil will of the aggressor states. This is a reality, however, and this is how it can be described. These are the facts; namely, that there is a will which wants the people to bow to other than God, but the people refuse to bow to anyone other than God, the one and only. [applause] The people cannot be harmed by those who leave the ranks to become renegades, and defect from the correct path and the great course. By defection, I do not mean public, traditional defection. I mean defection caused by the outcome of an action, which leads to some kind of a defection from the principles which the people have unanimously adopted as a correct course in their life. An example of this defection: Some people deal with commodities not on the basis of nationalism or the principles which God approves. Rather, they deal with commodities in a manner that increases burdens on people in their daily lives.

I am well aware, as are you, that many of the people who exceed proper bounds, answer in the affirmative when asked whether they are Muslims. When they are asked if they are faithful people, their answer is yes. In their conduct, however, they forget that they are Muslims and faithful persons. We must remind these people of the duties required of faithful Muslims toward their brethren and their people. Nonetheless, the will of virtue remains immense and great within you, the Iraqi people.

God be praised, for the will of virtue is inversely proportional to the pressures to which the people of Iraq are being subjected. We must not be ashamed of characterizing our state of affairs as it is. Therefore, we must say that 10 months, eight months, six months, four months, or two months ago, Iraq's collective will, awareness, and determination was not as strong as it is now.

In their calculations of the computers on which they rely, the countries which are acting contrary to God's wishes, the representatives of these countries who have chosen Satan as an ally instead of choosing the merciful God, believe that the more the pressure is increased, the more vulnerable the Iraqi people become to their failed course. The calculations of the faithful, however, the calculations of those who maintain an intimate and close relationship with the people, tell us that the more their pressure is increased, the firmer our will becomes to continue to pursue a faithful course. [applause]

It was not my intention to address the issues that I have addressed. But it has always been your custom to shower us with words for which we are not prepared, even though we are not accustomed to drafting prepared statements. Your faces are words. [applause] The same goes for your eyes. [applause]

In the first place, I came to this place to salute your session, to salute your position, to salute you, [applause] to salute this assembly, the assembly of the Mother of Battles. [applause] I would like to tell you that 1,000 years or more from now, your sessions, which have decided that determination backed by faith, which should be depended on, will remain a model of the sound will of the people's representatives. The term of your assembly—I mean the whole term and not the seasonal sessions—will remain unequaled by any session of the people's representatives in history in terms of the value of its stands. [applause]

The aggression took place, and what they gained from it is known. They harvested heaps—not heaps of wheat, nor heaps of barley—but heaps of their vile actions that are recorded and categorized. The impact of your stand, however, will not remain confined to the description we have given it. The impact of your stand will be carried by the people in their hearts, minds, and consciences. The first to carry this will be the people in the countries and places where they adopted stands of treason and treachery. In these places, you will see how the Arab people react. They will be the first to be affected by your stands on the path to good and virtue, God willing. Soon the unjust assailants will know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

We thank God that He has guided us to the stand we have adopted. We thank God for what He has decided for us. We thank God that we have kept away from Satan's stand, in whose abyss many fell while you remained on the path of virtue, glory, pride, and faith.

Many happy returns. [applause] We hope to always meet with you while your most cherished hopes are being attained. We hope to always meet you while your people enjoy glory. We also hope and ask God to help us in making our people prosperous in all fields of which God approves. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

[Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio in Arabic at 1704 GMT on 12 February adds: "The leader president was accorded a warm reception and send-off by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Dannu, and Assembly Secretary 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Janabi amidst a tempest of applause, verses of poetry, and zealous speeches, with which the representatives of the people received the hero of the nation and the leader of great Iraq."]

Further on Saddam Interview With Turkish Paper

Second Installment

NC1102115192 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 10 Feb 92 p 7

[Second of an unspecified number of installments of a report on an interview with President Saddam Husayn by HURRIYET columnist Lutfi Akdogan in Baghdad on 26 January—punctuation as published]

[Text] Tea was served again.... The tea was made from various herbs. Saddam had a sore throat and coughed every once in a while, although not too much.

[Akdogan] Mr. President: You met with U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie four days before you invaded Kuwait. You reportedly told her that you intended to occupy Kuwait and asked her to quickly convey your views to President Bush. Is that correct?

[Saddam] The world press made many mistakes in its reportage on this meeting. As I have said before, we have no personal problem with Americans. What personal problem can I have with Bush? Personal enmities cannot exist between two heads of state.

Yes, I met the ambassador that day. I discussed our problems with Kuwait with her, saying: "We are two friendly countries. I have heard that Kuwait has given you incorrect information." I then asked her to "inform President Bush that the information he has received from Kuwait is incorrect and to persuade him to pressure Kuwait if necessary." She replied: "I will convey your message immediately. However," she continued, "the United States does not want to be involved in inter-Arab disputes." I then said: "We do not want you to be involved either."

They Said "We Are Not Interfering"

[Akdogan] Did Bush respond to your message immediately?

[Saddam] There was no need for him to reply. They said that they would not interfere. In so saying they washed their hands. What response should I have waited for? We

entered Kuwait four days later. Regardless, Bush rallied the world—33 countries—and attacked Iraq. What was the problem? They had said that they would not intervene. Was it not a question of leaving Kuwait? We left Kuwait. What business did they have in Baghdad? Why this cruel treatment of the Iraqi people?

[Akdogan] Did you expect Turkey to attack during the war?

[Saddam] No, never. In fact, we did not have an effective military force on the Turkish border. We did not feel the need to deploy such units there....

[Akdogan] Turkey expected to be the target of Scud missiles....

[Saddam] Why did you expect to be a target? There was no hostility between our two countries.... What had you done to us to provoke a retaliation? We are two friendly and fraternal countries. It is true that Saudi Arabia was a target; we had no plans to target Turkey, however. We were friends with President Ozal until the very last day. We had no problems. Ozal, like so many others, was misled by the U.S. scenarios and moved quickly to close down the oil pipeline. We said nothing in that regard.... We did hear rumors later, but we preferred not to respond to them. We never understood the meaning of the remark "we shall put one and take back 20." Can you please explain what this means?

[Akdogan] Do not put me in a difficult position.... I am not clever enough to read Ozal's mind....

We both laughed at this point.

The hammer force [Poised Hammer; military force stationed in Turkey as part of the multinational coalition] was also discussed during the interview.... Saddam asked: "What business does the hammer force have in Turkey?" Saddam discussed Iraq's $800 million debt to Turkey, saying: "We could pay it tomorrow.... We have $2 billion being held in U.S. banks.... Demirel will visit the United States. Maybe he can talk to Bush and persuade him to release our money. Then we will be able to pay our debt to Turkey.... Once the embargo is lifted, we will have very good relations with Turkey."

They Made Billions at Our Expense

Saddam continued: "Believe me: Turkey treated us very well during the Iran-Iraq war, and later as well. It seems, however, that in the end they succumbed to U.S. pressure."

[Akdogan] Iraq's relations with France were also very good.... How are your relations with Mitterrand?

[Saddam] It is truly unbelievable.... We always preferred to use French companies. We accepted French business even though we could have had things done cheaper. We did a lot of business with France for a long time. They made billions of dollars at our expense. They maintained a favorable approach until the very last day. What happened later is common knowledge.... Shall I blame Zionism or the crusading spirit? I cannot attribute this to a crusading mentality because the Islamic countries also joined in.... This must be the new mentality, or new world order....

We laughed at this point.

[Akdogan] Have you attempted to manufacture nuclear arms?

[Saddam] The United States, Russia, Britain, France, and Israel all have nuclear weapons.... Is that not correct? These countries are now wondering how to rid themselves of these arms.... Why? Because the nuclear arms they have are a very serious threat to the world.... They created an uproar when we constructed a small nuclear plant to carry out scientific research. Who built the plant? Was it not the French? France was not alone in this endeavor; we received help from Britain, the United States, and Canada. In fact, we received help from every country that had the technology.... When they received our money, they said the plant was to be used for scientific reasons.... They did not object.... Now they are tearing us apart. We opened all our doors to the UN officials. We said to them: Come, investigate, and take or destroy whatever you find.

They Do Not Want a Second Nasir

[Akdogan] It seems that Europe and the United States are careful about two things: First, they will not tolerate a new 'Abd-al-Nasir; second, they do not want nuclear arms in the Middle East....

[Saddam] You are correct.... I want to make the following addition to your list: The Western countries also want to control oil prices. They will not, therefore, allow nationalism to become strong in this area. What did they want with Nasir? Nasir's nationalist views made them uneasy. Nasir was the father of Arab nationalism.... It is true that neither Europe nor the United States want another Nasir on their hands. In addition, they are opposed to excessive development of any country in the region. That is why they create discord among us. Our other Arab brothers are, regrettably, unaware of their ploys....

[Akdogan] I do not wish to take too much of your time.... Let us sum up. I am not asking you to make categorical promises on certain issues, but can you give me some assurances?

[Saddam] We are always committed to what we say. We agree to everything that is in the interests of our country and our people. We cannot agree to anything that would hurt our dignity. Look how the United Nations has behaved.... UN officials want to come and distribute medicine and food we wish to purchase with our own funds. Iraq's honorable people will not accept handouts. Does the United Nations think that it is giving us alms? We will never agree to the distribution of medicine and provisions. Let them block our funds as long as they like.

Let them maintain their embargo on our oil as long as they wish. Logical people and countries which respect human rights will come to our side in due course. We are patient and we shall patiently persevere....

Saddam said: "I am being told: 'Do not fight.' Of course we will not fight. In fact, we should not fight.... Should we not fight, however, if forces trifle with our honor and dignity and try to destroy our national unity? Should we not defend ourselves? Would Turkey not safeguard the Turkish nation's honor and dignity if it were confronted with a situation similar to what Iraq has experienced? Heroic Ataturk fought against seven countries.... Our situation now is similar to the situation you had to deal with when the Sevres Agreement was drafted. What did Ataturk do then? He resisted the agreement and began a national struggle. He tore up the agreement, paving the way for the Lausanne Agreement, which established Turkey's national borders. We are resisting like Ataturk. We will continue to resist. We want the civilized world and humanity to respond to our call. Bush is talking about a 'new world order.' Where is this new order? We wish to ask the entire world: 'Humanity, where are you? Come to us with your new order.' Democracy, openness, freedom, justice, and equality; these are what we are looking for.... Who wants to fight wars? We are not warriors. Had I been a fighter, I would not have become a builder.... You can see that we are constructing new cities, avenues, schools, and hospitals.... We are making every effort to develop our country and bring prosperity to our people...."

Third Installment

NC1202121792 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 11 Feb 92 p 7

[Third of an unspecified number of installments of a report on interview with President Saddam Husayn by HURRIYET columnist Lutfi Akdogan in Baghdad on 26 January—punctuation as published]

[Text] We had talked with Saddam Husayn for more than one hour. He seemed rather relaxed. His replies to my questions were open and easy to understand. Instead of diplomatic expressions, he used easily comprehensible sentences.

[Akdogan] "Mr. President, I have wanted to discuss the Iran-Iraq war with you for a long time. Can we talk about this before we discuss the question of Kuwait?"

[Saddam] "Our relations with Iran were extremely good. The shah of Iran occasionally provoked the Kurds, however. Later, we said: 'We are neighbors. This state of affairs is shameful. Let us reach a reconciliation.' We reached a reasonable agreement with the shah. But everything was disrupted after Khomeyni came to power in Iran."

[Akdogan] "Mr. President, how did the war start?"

[Saddam] "Mr. Suleyman Demirel was ousted in Turkey in September 1980. Khomeyni regarded this development as an opportunity and declared war on Iraq on 22 September. Our border had been violated more than 200 times. They used to cross our border and kill people. We cautioned them a few times, but they failed to heed what we said... The war was fought before the eyes of the entire world. The superpowers intervened. They sold billions of dollars of arms to Iraq and Iran. Consequently, we fought for eight years—again in accordance with the scenarios that were drawn up by the superpowers..."

[Akdogan] "Could you not talk with Khomeyni?"

[Saddam] "I tried to many times... I even asked the influential countries to mediate... But no one wanted the war to end. It was as if a secret hand was fanning the war... You followed the developments that took place at the time; you are well aware of what happened... Nevertheless, thanks to God, we were able to maintain our development even while we fought..."

Iraq and Kuwait Have Been Fraternal Countries for Centuries

[Akdogan] "Was it possible to avert the war with Kuwait?"

[Saddam] "Of course... The fighting could have been prevented if the superpowers had wished to avert the war. After all, the matter was an inter-Arab affair. It was a problem between neighboring countries. What business did the United States, Britain, and France have in Kuwait? Had Turkey intervened, then we would have said that 'it was a neighbor.' Even if Iran and Syria intervened, we still would have said that 'they too are neighbors, and as such, they have a right to speak on the matter.' Iraq and Kuwait have been fraternal countries for centuries. The Iraqis and the Kuwaitis are the same people... There is no difference between us. But Kuwait infiltrated our border, took our oil, and sold it while we were at war [with Iran]. We said: 'Never mind, after all we are brothers.' We launched a development campaign after the war. Destruction was widespread. We had to reconstruct our country. We needed funds. First, they began to play with the oil prices. Then they said: 'You owe us money. Pay us your debts.' In other words, they openly moved to direct pressure on us..."

[Akdogan] "Could you not ask for mediation?"

[Saddam] "We asked for mediation... Who did we not ask? First, we tried to resolve the problem within the framework of the Arab League... This was not possible... The king of Jordan tried to mediate, but nothing was achieved... Husni Mubarak tried as well. His effort did not yield results either... Fahd made a similar attempt..."

[Akdogan] "Probably, his attempt failed as well..."

We Shall Definitely Overcome Our Problems

[Saddam] "That is about true... We dispatched a delegation headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim to Saudi Arabia. We asked for a loan of $10 billion. First, they said they would 'give' us this loan, but then they informed us that they were 'unable' to do so. We informed them that we asked for a loan, not for a grant. They replied: 'We can talk after you pay your old debts.' In the end, they agreed, in the presence of Fahd, to provide a loan of $9 billion. But 'Izzat Ibrahim insisted on a loan of $10 billion. Fahd intervened and said: 'I shall pay the remaining $1 billion.' Curious to know the outcome of the meeting, the king of Jordan attended the banquet held in Saudi Arabia that evening. The matter was resolved. A problem emerged after that banquet. The crown prince of Kuwait told 'Izzat Ibrahim: 'Let us first resolve the border problems. Let us establish our borders. Then we can give you the loan.' 'Izzat Ibrahim responded by saying that 'we do not accept any conditions.' He returned to Baghdad the next day. Our colleagues assessed the situation. We decided to 'give them a warning' and moved to take a number of military measures. Later, they provoked us again. We decided to 'occupy Kuwait until we resolved the problem peacefully.' An uproar was created after this. We could have resolved the problem among ourselves. This was destiny established by God. God is great. We shall definitely overcome our problems."

[Akdogan] "This matter has gone beyond an affair between neighbors and become an international problem. The UN has never been confronted with such a problem...."

Saddam Husayn laughed.

[Saddam] "That is true...and it had to happen to us. But the Iraqi people are very patient, they know how to be... Mesopotamia has been the venue for many onslaughts and wars. Nevertheless, a new civilization emerged after each onslaught and war, and God willing, we will establish a new Iraq."

[Akdogan] "It seems that you must now solve your problems through the UN... Peace might prevail in Iraq and in the region if you comply with UN demands quickly..."

[Saddam] "We are trying...but they are accusing us of everything.... This is too much...."

We Are Not Holding Kuwaiti Prisoners of War

[Akdogan] "Mr. President, I have a request... Would you comply?"

[Saddam] "Please go ahead. What is your request?"

[Akdogan] "It is being said that Iraq is holding nearly 20 prisoners of war from Kuwait... Releasing them would easily solve some problems. I am asking you as a friend to release the prisoners..."

[Saddam] "I assure you that we do not have even one prisoner of war from Kuwait... If we did we would have released him immediately. What can we do with prisoners, let alone 20? If we had 20,000 on our hands we would have returned them. What use could we have for them? Such claims are meaningless...."

[Akdogan] "I believe that the problem can be solved quickly if you comply with the UN demands...."

[Saddam] "We are complying. Yes, we are doing that.... We are complying with whatever they ask us to do. Regrettably, however, a UN institution does not exist.... There is only Bush.... Yes, just Bush...."

[Akdogan] "Has there been any personal enmity between you and President Bush?"

[Saddam] "No, never.... There has been no hostility between us.... On the contrary, we had very close relations with the Americans and Bush before the war...."

[Akdogan] "What happened?"

[Saddam] "I do not know.... I do not know...."

On Khomeyni, Saddam Husayn said: "...The shah of Iran did not become involved in the Kurdish problem after the agreement that was signed in Algeria. Khomeyni was our guest at the time. Having become friendly with Iran we could no longer turn a blind eye to certain malicious initiatives against it. Khomeyni continued to provoke the Iranian people against the shah and eventually we could no longer tolerate this. We said: 'Your eminence, you are welcome to stay in Iraq as our guest. But if you wish to pursue malicious ambitions against a friendly country then you should go elsewhere. If you are a mullah you should behave like one, but if you are a politician do not engage in politics in Iraq....' Ignoring our warning, Khomeyni kept up his activities. Eventually he left for Kuwait but the Kuwaiti people did not accept him. As you know, he then settled in Paris, where he maintained his political activities. There were those who provoked him, but in the end the shah was ousted and replaced by Khomeyni, whom we congratulated. We also extended olive branches to him but that was of no use...."

Fourth Installment

NC1302112492 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 12 Feb 92 p 7

[Fourth of an unspecified number of installments of a report on an interview with President Saddam Husayn by HURRIYET columnist Lutfi Akdogan in Baghdad on 26 January—punctuation as published]

[Text] We were served coffee with no sugar.... It was served in small quantities to allow us to sip it slowly.... The coffee was bitter without sugar.... After having a few sips, you shake your coffee cup, indicating to the server that you do not want any more. It is also an indication for him to remove your coffee cup....

[Akdogan] Mr. President: I longed for a cup of coffee....

[Saddam] "Yes, it has been a long time since you visited us...."

[Akdogan] That is right. This is my first visit since the war....

[Saddam] "You left us alone during the war...."

[Akdogan] Could we have ever done that? For God's sake, that is enough....

We laughed. I continued:

[Akdogan] Mr. President, have mercy.... You are fighting on a single front. However, as your old and true friend, I am struggling in the United States, in Europe, and in every other corner in the world to represent your true viewpoint. I am struggling to convince people that you maintain goodwill. But Mr. President, that is enough. We are exhausted.... We are running from one front to the other.... Why is that?

[Saddam] "Let us be serious now.... Are we to blame for starting all the wars?"

[Akdogan] Of course, you.... You bear half the blame for the world's current economic problems.

[Saddam] "Wait a moment. I do not understand.... Am I or is Bush?"

"Did We Impede Arab Extravagance..."

[Akdogan] No, no.... You bear half the blame.... I was in Geneva last week. The banks and shops were empty. Even a country like Switzerland is suffering economic hardships. No one can buy or sell a watch or a piece of jewelry.... Our Arab brothers used to pay $50,000 or $100,000 for a watch. They would pay $1 million for a bracelet.

[Saddam] "Oh! wait a minute.... By God, if we are blamed for preventing our Arab brothers from buying jewelry for $1 million or from preventing the money of the innocent Arab peoples from being wasted in this way, we do not regret it. On the contrary, we feel proud of what we have done."

[Akdogan] Mr. President, I wish to discuss the time prior to the Gulf war once again.... Were you not alarmed by the pressure and advanced technology of the influential countries?

[Saddam] "Of course we were alarmed. But we believed that everything would be rectified at the last minute. Mitterrand and Gorbachev misled me."

[Akdogan] What is happening now? What do they want? What do you want?

[Saddam] "We have left Kuwait.... Is there a reason to seek vengeance on infants? We are unable to provide medicine, baby food, and sugar to the children.... Where are the people of the civilized world? Do human rights only apply only to their children and not ours? "

Importation of Foodstuffs Possible....

[Akdogan] I believe that the United Nations has made a positive decision on the question of foodstuffs and medicine.... You can import these items without a problem....

[Saddam] "Their decision on the matter is rather unclear.... It is interpreted in a different way every day.... Of course, there is also the question of funds.... All our funds have been blocked.... The United Nations has allowed the countries of the world to decide for themselves what to do with our money; that is, countries are free to decide for themselves. Some nations have, in fact, released our funds in small amounts from time to time.

"We cannot, however, control our funds in general.... We are unable to buy our urgent requirements, such as medicine, baby food, and other foodstuffs. They want to bring us down with their inhuman actions, but the Iraqi people will not yield.... They will keep their heads high and resist inhumanity...."

[Akdogan] But it seems that one can get whatever one wants in Baghdad.... The shops are full. It seems that all kinds of things are available here.... Can you explain this?

[Saddam] "Yes, that is right.... Thank God, many people sympathize with us.... Thousands of Transit Highway International trucks arrive in Iraq every day. Nevertheless, we wish to trade legally.... Actually, our trade is legal but we are unable to engage in normal foreign currency transactions.... This has caused a problem.... How can our funds be blocked? Is that not inhuman? What do they want with our funds?"

"I Complain About Certain Measures Taken By Officials"

Saddam Husayn strongly disagreed with the often-discussed view that Iraq has to resolve its differences with the United Nations if it wishes to solve its economic problems. He closed the subject by saying: "We cannot be a servant to anyone. We cannot be a servant to anyone in order to please the United Nations.... We are not asking anyone for anything.... All we want is what is rightfully ours.... It is strange. Yes, it is very strange.... Friends we have supported for many years prefer to remain silent.... We do not understand why.... I do not understand why they fear the United States so much.... I have no complaint against our fraternal countries. I am complaining about certain measures taken by officials.... I am convinced that in their heart, the Arab people and the Islamic countries support us.... They are all struggling for us and trying to help us.... Our complaint is only against the officials.... Yes, the officials...."

Ba'th Party in 'Palestine Region' Launched

JN0802191392 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] Brothers: Nasif 'Awwad, secretary of the Palestinian Organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, held a news conference this morning in Baghdad, in which he announced the birth of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the Palestine Region [hizb al-ba'th al-'arabi al-ishtiraki fi al-qutr al-filastini]. A statement has been issued regarding the Palestinian party conference. The following is the text:

Sons of our heroic Palestinian people, masses of our glorious Arab nation: Since the founding of your struggling party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Palestine question has been, and still is, the central cause in the party's doctrine and struggle. The party—which embodied the nation's ambitions and hopes and raised the slogan for its renaissance—has understood from the very beginning the objectives of the conspiracy hatched by colonialism and world Zionism to create that question and establish a racist, colonialist, expansionist entity in the heart of the Arab world; namely, the tyrannical Zionist entity, which has been planted, through treachery and aggression, in the land of Arab Palestine.

The principal objective behind planting that entity was to prevent the unity of the Arab homeland, facilitate the plunder of its wealth, and murder the Arab nation's ambition to express its political, economic, and cultural potentials in a manner that reflects its true nature, which it has confirmed in known phases throughout human history.

The party's principles and objectives have attracted the cream of the nation's strugglers in all countries. They have also attracted a large number of Palestinian strugglers, who believed that their cause was not, and will never be, a regional one, because Palestine, in itself, was not the target, despite the myths which the Zionists and the colonialist West have employed to provide justification and cover for the aggression; rather, the target was the Arab nation and the Arab homeland. This fact gives the cause, in addition to its national dimension, a pan-Arab dimension when an arrogant colonialist and military entity is established and when this entity is given all means of military, economic, and political support by international imperialism to enable it to impose its tutelage over the Arab nation and prevent its unity and its renaissance.

On the basis of that belief, and as a result of the circumstances which the Palestinian people found themselves in after the establishment of the Zionist entity on a large part of their land, they, and particularly the Ba'thists among them, have joined their militant energies with the energies of their comrades in the other Arab countries in which they live to serve the principles and objectives, which they all believe in and of which the Palestinian cause occupies a principal part. They have never felt they were distant from their national cause because they believe that their cause is the cause of the entire nation.

If the wars in the Arab world over the past five decades, and the familiar local and international conspiracies, have proven this fact, then the aggression against Iraq—whether through the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle [Iraq-Iran war] or the victorious Mother of Battles—has proven this fact beyond anyone's doubts, except for the traitors and the betrayers of the nation and its future. This was true despite the seemingly remote scene in the second case and despite the fact that American imperialism and its ally, the Zionist entity, were forced not to respond directly to Iraq's missiles, which poured on this entity for the first time since its foundation, with all the implications this carries. This fact has also been proven by the current suspect moves, led by the United States, to make the Arabs surrender to the Zionist entity through what the United States terms as peace.

As the Mother of Battles awakened the Arab masses to the fact of the conspiracy, and forced the Arabs involved in the imperialist-Zionist scheme against the Arab nation to reveal their treasonous nature, it imposed direct national responsibilities on the struggling Palestinians in the ranks of the Ba'th Party, on top of their pan-Arab responsibilities. It pushed the Palestinian cause to the forefront of the hotbeds in the region and proved to the entire world that Ba'th principles are sound, and that its vision of the Palestine question being the center of the nation's struggle and the prime cause of instability in the region is correct.

This has forced the United States to throw all its weight behind a process to impose a settlement on the Palestine question—one that serves its imperialist interests and those of its ally and partner, world Zionism. In doing this, the United States is benefiting from the new international situation resulting from the collapse of the Soviet Union, and from what it imagined as victory in its sinful aggression against Iraq, which it launched together with the alliance of villains. The United States and its allies, especially the dwarf agent Arab rulers, are deluding themselves into thinking that this imposed settlement will perpetuate the usurpation of Palestine, and place the Arab world under the hegemony of the United States and the Zionist entity for a time they imagine will be long.

Struggling comrades, mujahid Palestinians, masses of our glorious nation: The Palestinian Arab people, and the masses of the entire nation, have resisted the conspiracy of usurpation of Palestine since it began at the start of the 20th century. Thousands of Palestinians and Arabs fell martyrs while trying to prevent the implementation of the conspiracy, and while struggling to liberate Palestine following the establishment of the Zionist entity on the largest part of Palestine's soil as a result of colonialist treachery, international collusion, and the

treason of the Arab regimes at that time. Martyrs continued to fall after the entire land of Palestine, together with other dear parts of the Arab land, was usurped in the Zionist-imperialist aggression of 1967.

While the Arab nation mobilized its pioneer forces to counter that aggression, and while Arab youths in various countries took up arms to join the armed Palestinian struggle to wipe out the shame of defeat and liberate the usurped territory, most of the reactionary Arab regimes and the suspect regimes applied a different logic. It was the logic of appeasement and bowing to the wave of popular anger, which came to a head when these regimes were preparing to besiege and wipe out the armed struggle phenomenon and to plot against the Arab revolution forces, led by our great party and its powerful revolution in Iraq—the 17-30 July revolution—which was the strongest and most salient answer to the 1967 defeat, aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause in the interest of world Zionism and imperialism.

It was no coincidence that the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982—when the Arab submission became apparent and when some Arab regimes, such as the Damascus regime and the Arabian Gulf regimes, plotted to wipe out the Palestinian revolution and end the armed struggle—was accompanied by an escalation of the fierce Iranian onslaught on Iraq, with the aim of harming the steadfast and heroic city of al-Basra. It was also no coincidence that the blockade imposed on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in 1985 by the Damascus regime and the organizations affiliated to it, and all the ensuing crimes that were unprecedented in history, should be accompanied by the Iranian regime's attempts to undermine al-Basra's steadfastness by stepping up its attacks. It was no coincidence that the glorious Palestinian intifadah should be launched, contrary to all expectations, in significant harmony and unison with the obvious weakening of the Iranian aggression, which later ended in collapse in the face of the steadfast Iraqi mujahidin and their splendid heroic deeds.

The brave Palestinian intifadah, which came in the wake of the great victory of the Iraqi mujahidin against the Iranian aggression, was the beginning of a new phase of struggle in the nation's life; the stage of regaining self-respect and embarking on the road to all-out pan-Arab awakening. This terrified the enemies and the nation's traitors who plotted against Iraq and Palestine at the same time.

Continuing attempts to liquidate the Palestinian case, and the aggression against Iraq, which found its worst expression in the Mother of Battles, entail onerous responsibilities to foil these efforts and all anti-Arab American-inspired solutions. These responsibilities must be borne by Ba'thists and Palestinians of various affiliations, as well as worthy Arab militants. These attempts are aimed at promoting the presence of the Zionist entity on Palestinian territory and imposing its recognition on the entire Arab nation. In the spirit of this responsibility, at this delicate and serious juncture in the history of the Palestinian case and the Arab nationalist cause in general, the Palestinian Ba'thists will dedicate their struggle first and foremost to their national cause. To that end, a party conference, representing Palestinian organizations within the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party throughout the Arab homeland, was convened somewhere in the Arab world in late January 1992. The conference elected a top leadership to direct Palestinian action in various areas, in line with the overall policies charted by our militant party to consolidate a revival of the Arab nation.

The party conference of Palestinian organizations was held in a militant atmosphere permeated by the rare heroic deeds of the Iraqis and their matchless sacrifices in the Mother of Battles. The Iraqis continue to conduct themselves in the same fashion under the banner of the lofty principles championed by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, behind the leadership of the nationalist hero, comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, the leader of our party and our nation, and the standard bearer of its renewal. In the meantime, our heroic Palestinian people resolve to keep their valiant intifadah going and to regain their stolen rights.

The coincidence of our conference with the wide horizons opened up by the Mother of Battles and the Palestinian intifadah before the Arab nation, to give expression to its advanced militant and civilized potential, lends it an unusual importance. It also places on the shoulders of Palestinian militants and Ba'thists the responsibility of rising to the fateful challenges confronting the Arab nation and the Palestinian case, which is being targeted for liquidation.

The challenges that face the nation and the looming dangers threatening the Palestinian cause, the central Arab cause, and the need to preserve the Palestinian revolution, were present at the conference with all their pressures and ramifications. The conference discussed them as well as ways to face dangers and escalate the intifadah within the framework of the pan-Arab awakening movement, which is being led by our militant party with a deep awareness and a high sense of responsibility, as well as a genuine democratic climate based on the rich experience of our party in this field and the spirit that emerged in the Mother of Battles.

O comrade Ba'thists, O struggling Palestinian masses, O masses of our great nation. The pan-Arab awakening has begun with the steadfastness and victory of Iraq against the Iranian aggression, and the launching of the Palestinian intifadah. The Mother of Battles, during which the spirit of jihad was gloriously manifested in its deep characteristics and its adherence to the spirit of our forefathers, had a great effect in spurring the pan-Arab spirit and in spreading the principles in which al-Ba'th believed and the aims it announced to the furthest corners of our large Arab land. At the same time, the Mother of Battles furnished the most conspicuous proof of the sincerity of these aims and the truthfulness of those who believed in them, fought for their sake, and

raised their banner, given their confrontation with the biggest tests faced by men of principle.

Let us all be on the level of subscribing to these great aims. Let us face the challenges that are imposed on our nation with faithful hearts and with the courage of men of principle. Let us always preserve the honor of subscribing to them and our faith in our people, land, and nation.

Greetings to our struggling Palestinian people and their blessed heroic intifadah, whose powerful spirit defeated the enemy war machine, which the defeatist Arabs feared and which exposed Zionist racism and Western hostility.

Greetings to the Iraqi mujahidin in their steadfastness against the most grotesque aggression in history, and their insistence on continuing the battle of jihad and reconstruction with faithful hearts that are confident of victory.

Greetings to those who are more honorable than all of us, the martyrs of Palestine and the Iraq's martyrs in Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles, and to all the martyrs who offered their lives for the sake of Arab dignity.

Greetings of love and pride to the Arab leader who raised the banner of the nation's awakening and dignity, the struggling leader, Saddam Husayn.

Shame and ignominy to the nation's traitors who are plotting against the nation's present and future.

Revolution until victory. Immortality to our nation's mission.

Gates Mission to Middle East Analyzed

JN1202093292 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The United States is pressuring its agents in the region to recognize the Zionist entity and normalize political and economic relations with it. The United States has sent CIA Director Robert Gates to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Zionist entity for this purpose. This is the first visit by this dangerous spy—a visit the United States was careful to announce and publicize.

This visit has aroused the interest of observers, especially since it follows King Fahd's meeting with a Zionist delegation representing a U.S.-Zionist organization. It was announced that talks dealt with the issue of normalizing relations between Saudi Arabia and the Zionist entity, and that they produced useful results.

It is believed that the CIA director will try to put this agreement into immediate effect, taking advantage of the rampant disputes among members of the ruling Saudi family. These disputes have recently surfaced and escalated following King Fahd's failure to contain the growing Saudi opposition and his inability to maintain security and stability in Saudi Arabia as a result of popular indignation over the Gulf war and the aggression against Iraq. This indignation scares the ruling Saudi family and encourages the United States and the Zionists to exploit it in their own interest.

It is clear from these facts that the U.S. Administration is playing more than one game in the region. It is giving some Arabs the impression that it is working for peace and to end the Arab-Zionist conflict at a time when it is pressuring others to recognize the Zionist entity, normalize relations with it, and forgo the legitimate rights of Palestinians. It is clear from this hostile U.S. position that the U.S. Administration will not abandon its enmity toward our Arab people and their crucial concerns. Moreover, it will not abandon its bias and support for the Zionists. This was evident in the Madrid talks, which began to collapse in Washington under the sponsorship of Bush and James Baker, as well as the CIA, which is dedicated to serving the Zionists.

U.S. 'Spy Plane' Flights Protested to UN

JN0802142892 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 8 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Feb. 8, INA—Iraq protested to the United Nations over the continued violation of the American spy plane U.2. of the Iraqi airspace under the pretext of carrying out aerial survey for a U.N. special committee.

A message by Iraqi foreign minister to the U.N. secretary general said that the American spy plane entered the Iraqi airspace coming from the Saudi territory and flew over wide Iraqi areas for three and a half hours before heading back to the Saudi territory.

The message said that it was the 29th violation made by the plane and that plane's flights clearly reflect the provocative and aggressive nature of its mission.

The Iraqi foreign minister message further said that flights of the American spy plane had increased recently despite the fact that this period witnessed several visits made by the U.N. inspection teams to Iraq.

The message added that the U.N. teams confirmed cooperation of the Iraqi side and that the visits had cleared several misunderstandings in addition to the fact that the Iraqi side provided those missions with full details on their inquiries.

The message stressed that continued flights of the spy plane were made to serve the evil political designs of some international parties and therefore, putting an end to such unjustified provocative acts was necessary.

Popular Forces Clashes With Army Reported

LD1202124492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Heavy clashes are continuing between the popular forces and the Iraqi Army. The Iraqi opposition radio [radio mo'arezin-e Araq] announced today that the Iraqi regime's commandos and army infantry and armored units, with air cover, began a large-scale attack on the popular forces several days ago. According to the report, fighting has continued in parts of the cities of al-'Amarah, Kumayt, al-Kut, and al-Nasiriyah, but because these areas are under siege, the casualty toll is still not known.

Another report states that guerrilla operations have increased in Baghdad and important Iraqi cities and that in the latest of these operations the Ba'th Party base in al-Azimiyah was attacked. The same report adds: With the rise in attacks by popular forces and opposition groups, engineering and mechanized units of the Iraqi forces are busy setting up fortifications along the border with Syria and around Khanaqin, Karkuk, Mosul, Karbala', and Irbil.

Iraqis, Arabs Arrive at Safwan From Kuwait

JN1102164192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Al-Basra, 11 Feb (INA)—Thirty-four Arab and Iraqi citizens deported by the authorities of the regime imposed on Kuwait arrived at the Safwan border area in al-Basra Governorate today.

In statements to an INA correspondent in al-Basra Governorate, the deportees condemned the inhuman and merciless practices against Arab residents committed by the regime imposed on Kuwait.

Organizations Commemorate 1st Gulf War Anniversary

National Command Marks 'Mother of Battles'

JN0902175292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Feb (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has asserted that the militant stand taken in the Mother of Battles gained honor and glory as a daring leap, which broke the chains of submission and subservience to the foreigners and confronted attempts to plunder the wealth of the Arab homeland and belittle the Arab nation's rights in Palestine, as well as its right to sovereignty and progress.

In a statement issued today on the first anniversary of the great battle, the Mother of Battles, in which the heroic Iraqis confronted the fiercest military attack ever launched against them by the U.S.-led imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic forces, the National Command said that the great battle, with its historic framework, rejuvenated the national liberation movement against modern colonialism, advanced the national socialist struggle to encourage the popular masses to resist poverty and persecution, and restored self-confidence and respect to their aspirations for keeping abreast of the times.

It adds that the Mother of Battles provided a valuable opportunity for promoting the nation's struggle to the level of fateful cultural challenges in a world of interacting interests and future groupings.

The National Command explained that while world imperialism and Zionism prepared the chapters of the continuing aggression, with the support and collaboration of the failed agent regimes in the Arab homeland and the spiteful, languid rulers of some neighboring states, it believes more than ever that the aggression failed as a policy to terrorize the Arab masses.

It pointed out that the great battle has also strengthened ties with our nation's militant past and present, and restored the Arab masses' hopes for a renaissance, following a long period of stumbling and negativism.

In its statement, the National Command also affirmed that the pan-Arab, nationalist, leftist, and Islamic forces, which backed the Mother of Battles in defending Iraq; the Arab homeland; and the values of justice, sovereignty, peace, and political and economic freedom, are capable or carrying out these duties through their experience and their good relations on the local, Arab, Islamic, and international levels, as well as the resolutions of the third conference of the Arab Popular Forces and the programs of the committees in solidarity with and supporting Iraq and other popular bodies in the Arab, Islamic, and international arenas.

Al-'Amiriyah Shelter Bombing Remembered

JN1202125392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front has asserted that the al-'Amiriyah shelter crime will remain a document of condemnation and a mark of disgrace for the tyrannical U.S. Administration and its allies.

In a statement issued today on Thursday's first anniversary of the deliberate criminal bombardment of the al-'Amiriyah shelter, the Front described the bombardment as part of a continuous chain of U.S. plots to annihilate the 18 million Iraqis, contrary to all international and humanitarian charters and norms.

The front added that the criminal murderers, on the orders of the criminal of the age, Bush, violated all heavenly and earthly values and traditions of the civilized world. They also harshly violated the ethical, human, and legal principles of international dealings and proved through their ugly crime—whose victims were hundreds of women, elderly people, and infants—that they are professional killers who are not linked to

humanity by any values or principles. Therefore, they deserve the curse of God, history, and future generations.

The front appealed to human rights organizations to condemn and denounce the killers of innocent children, and expose the vileness and lowness of their heinous crimes against defenseless civilians. It called on the free and honorable people of the world to join the worldwide struggle against aggression and act in solidarity with the proud people of Iraq, who are waging the battle of the age in the fields of jihad and construction in defense of their freedom, existence, and independence.

Concluding its statement, the front said that history will record with pride and admiration how great the Iraqi people were in superbly rallying around their prudent leadership, represented by President Saddam Husayn, in its defiance of all the forces of evil, injustice, falsehood, and aggression.

Filatov Reportedly Asked To Join Army

JN1202110792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 12 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH today reported that Soviet General Victor Filatov, [former] editor in chief of the Soviet MILITARY HISTORY JOURNAL, had asked to serve as a volunteer with the Iraqi Army during the 30-state aggression.

The paper added that Filatov asked to see Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when Tariq 'Aziz visited Moscow prior to the aggression, and handed him his request to volunteer.

In his request, the Soviet general explained that the Soviet Army, the KGB, and Communist Party cadres were opposed to the Soviet president's support for the U.S. aggression against Iraq.

General Filatov stayed in Baghdad throughout the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against our people and later wrote several articles on the war.

Minister Signs Order Expanding Jerusalem Area

TA1302105892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i this morning signed an order expanding Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the capital's municipal boundaries will be expanded by 15,000 dunams to include 'Emeq Ha'arazim, Motza 'Ilit, Har Heret, lands in the area of Ramat Rahel, and moshavim Ora and 'Aminadav. Under the plan, 12,000 apartments will be built in these areas, and industrial, commerce, tourism, sports, and tourism buildings will be built on 1 million square meters. By the year 2000, Jerusalem will have a population of about 1 million.

Boundaries Not Extended to East

TA1302122492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 12 GMT 13 Feb 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has noted that the lands annexed to Jerusalem today include only areas south and west of the city. He explained that the Interior Ministry's authority does not extend to the lands east of the capital because Israeli law does not apply there. In response to a question by our correspondent on the U.S. stand that supports restricting building in East Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek said he will react after receiving more details.

1992 Housing Starts Sought in Guarantees Request

TA1302083592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 92 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Text] In the framework of negotiations for the loan guarantees, the Israeli Government wants the United States to recognize about 5,000 housing units budgeted but not built in 1991 as belonging in the category of apartments under actual construction. Government sources said that in the Israeli view, the number of apartments started in 1991 is between 13,000 and 14,000. This number is made up of three main components:

—Some 5,000 apartments actually started in West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements by September 1991. This figure appears in Israel's statistical yearbook for December.

—Some 4,000 additional apartments included in the Construction and Housing Ministry's 1992 program.

—Some 5,000 apartments budgeted but not started in 1991, which were transferred to the 1992 budget.

The sources said that Baker told Shoval on 24 January that as far as he is concerned, the housing starts included in the program can be completed. Shoval understood this to mean the 4,000 apartments in the 1992 program, plus 5,000 in actual construction stages. Subsequently, Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir tried to add apartments which were budgeted but not started in 1991.

They added that Shamir was amazed when he learned after the second Baker-Shoval meeting that the U.S. secretary of state had gone back on his statement acknowledging the construction under the 1992 program. Baker cited a figure between 5,000 and 6,000 apartments under actual construction in the territories, saying that after these are completed, no additional building would be allowed. On the same occasion, Baker raised the issue of deducting the amounts invested in settlements in 1991, including development and infrastructure outlays, from the guarantees. It is to be noted that according to various calculations, the deduction Baker demanded may reach about $0.5 billion in the coming year.

Bank Governor on Importance of Guarantees

TA1202213592

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew in its "Moqed" program at 1940 GMT on 12 February carries an interview with Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel by Yoram Ronen and economic correspondents Hayim Platner and 'Oded Shahar.

Frenkel is asked whether he made clear to the prime minister that Israel must reach agreement with the United States on the issue of the loan guarantees or face possible economic collapse or even disaster. The governor replies that he made clear to Shamir the importance of the guarantees for Israel's economy and for the absorption of immigrants. While noting that he is "only in charge of the economic aspects of the issue," Frenkel explains: "The guarantees are extremely crucial for Israel's economy, and everyone is well aware of that." The governor asserts that "without the guarantees the situation will be much more difficult, the absorption of immigrants will be much less successful, and it is entirely uncertain whether we will witness the influx of immigrants we are hoping for so much."

Frenkel says that a possible government decision to adhere to its political positions, even at the cost of losing the guarantees, is "a legitimate political decision." He adds, however, that to make such a decision one must be in possession of all the information and be aware of the ramifications of any decision. The political echelon will reach its decision after receiving all the information, he said.

Commenting on Finance Minister Moda'i's two assertions—first, that Israel should not give in to U.S. dictates to freeze settlements; and second, that guarantees were not crucial for Israel's future—Frenkel says that the first statement is "a political statement," which he will not comment on. As for the ramifications of not getting the guarantees, Frenkel asserts: "Things must be kept in perspective. The economy will not collapse without the

guarantees." Israel, he says, has a strong economy. Frenkel goes on to say, however, that Israel's top priority is immigrant absorption, and guarantees are important for success in that endeavor.

Explaining what will happen to the Israeli economy if the guarantees are withheld, the governor says: "First of all, we shall have a lower growth rate, aliyah will shrink, unemployment will grow. I assume that the level of investments will significantly drop."

Frenkel dismisses possible alternatives to the loan guarantees which were proposed by government ministers, such as taxes, contributions from the Jewish Diaspora, loans from other banks or countries. Frenkel says: "On this, my answer is unequivocal. I would like to address the issue in a wider context. This is not a black or white, zero-sum game of $10 billion or nothing. There is a spectrum. We can approach the money market, but the magnitudes we are talking about are so immense that ordinary measures, in my opinion, are not applicable." Frenkel explains that Israel will simply not have market accessibility today to raise such amounts. Frenkel says that raising taxes would be a mistake, as it would run counter to Israel's intention to encourage investment. As for the Jewish people, the $10 billion in loan guarantees would only cover half of Israel's financial needs for the absorption of immigrants, but these guarantees "are much more than the money itself. They are the key to the alternatives. The moment you have the key you can also approach other friendly countries. You can approach the Jewish people and the money market, and fill the other half of the glass." Frenkel reiterates that Israel can live with a postponement in the issuance of the guarantees: "The important thing is not when we get the money, but when the market gets the signal that the guarantees are on their way." He goes on to say: "The delay in the information of whether Israel will get the guarantees or not has already led to a postponement of investments in the economy." Therefore, Frenkel says, "from an economic aspect, there is no doubt that the sooner the process is moved forward, the better."

Finance Minister Says Guarantees 'Not Crucial'

TA1202141392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has said the loan guarantees are not crucial to Israel's future. In a briefing to economic correspondents at his office in Jerusalem, Moda'i said he finds it difficult to determine whether the nature of the argument with the Americans will be political or economic.

In an interview with our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman, the minister asserted that even without the guarantees, Israel would undoubtedly be able to supply all the needs of the immigrants. Moda'i added that this would not necessarily affect the standard of living enjoyed by long-time Israelis.

The minister claimed that the government had alternative means to raise money overseas, including an unprecedented effort among the Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

Egypt Announces Detention of Fourth Israeli

TA1202125592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has said that the Egyptian authorities informed Israel of the detention of Israeli businessman David Ovitz in Cairo. Israel was told that Ovitz, an importer of furniture from Egypt, used the services of Faris Misrati to translate for him from Hebrew to Arabic for his business affairs. Ovitz was detained for questioning to ascertain whether he is linked in any way to the Misrati affair.

Spy Affair Denied; Egyptian Apology Desired

TA1302055892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Israel is waiting for an Egyptian apology after the interrogation of the four Israelis suspected of spying ends. They did not spy for Israel, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said, and hopes that Cairo will make that clear after the interrogation is completed. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The Egyptian authorities announced David Ovitz's detention formally to Efrayim Dowek, Israel's ambassador in Cairo. In this stage of interrogation of Faris Misrati and his son and daughter, the Egyptian security authorities are investigating anybody who was in contact with the detained family, suspected of spying. Misrati gave his interrogators David Ovitz's name and said he had ties with him. Ovitz is a businessman who imports furniture from Egypt to Israel but does not know Arabic; therefore, he used Misrati as a translator, it was reported. That is why the security authorities detained Ovitz. Israel was formally told that since anybody who had any ties with Misrati is being interrogated, his ties with Ovitz, who visits Egypt from time to time for business, are also being looked into.

Jerusalem this morning is looking forward to the completion of the investigation into that strange affair, especially since the Egyptian interior minister has also told the Israeli ambassador that he did not say Misrati is suspected of spying for the Mosad. After it is all over, it is said here, and it transpires that there was no spying for Israel, it would be nice if the Egyptians apologize.

Shamir: Territory Not Part of Autonomy Talks

TA1202162392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the territorial issue would not be part of the talks scheduled to take place in Washington on autonomy.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that at the inner cabinet session preparatory to the resumption of the talks in Washington at the end of the month, Shamir said those talks would deal with the administrative aspects of autonomy.

Autonomy Termed Best Possible Solution for Arabs

TA1202063492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor has said the autonomy idea proposed by Israel for the Arab residents is the best possible solution. Under the proposal, the Arabs will run their own affairs, including the legal system, but it will not apply to the Jewish residents. He said that under the autonomy setup, arrangements will have to be worked out to settle disputes between Jews and Arabs.

Minister Meridor made these remarks in reaction to a High Court of Justice ruling which rejected an appeal against the settlers being subject to the local courts in Judaea and Samaria. The appeal was presented by Moshe Zar, a land agent from Elon More, who claimed that Arab judges are subject to intifadah threats and therefore do not hand down just rulings.

Minister Meridor said the existing legal system cannot change without a political solution and a change in the formal status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

NRP Urges Policymakers To Reject Autonomy

TA1302105592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Feb 92 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] About 2,000 NRP [National Religious Party] members, including Knesset members, rabbis, yeshiva heads, leaders of settlements in the territories, and religious kibbutzim members attended a convention which opened yesterday at the Cinerama in Tel Aviv under the motto: "Yes to Eretz Yisra'el—No to Autonomy."

The convention called on policymakers to take immediate action toward implementing a plan that would offer an alternative to Camp David autonomy.

Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki said at the convention that "as one working with Yitzhaq Shamir, I know that the government will never lend its hand to surrendering parts of Eretz Yisra'el and to the establishment of a second Palestinian state. Jordan is Palestine. Any talk of autonomy refers to municipal autonomy."

First Civil Defense Base Planned for West Bank

TA1202205092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo has decided that the first Civil Defense base in Judaea and Samaria will be set up in Ma'ale Adumim, near Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Asaf Ya'ari reports that the Milo consulted the prime minister, the defense minister, and the justice minister before instructing the police to carry out his decision.

Police Want End to Probe of Detainee's Death

TA1302060692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] After the investigation into the death of Mustafa al- 'Akkawi in the Shin Bet wing of Hebron prison, the police recommend closing the file and not putting on trial any of the Shin Bet interrogators. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that from the final report by pathologist Yehuda Hiss and an inquiry by the investigating team, it appears that the wounds found on al-'Akkawi's body were caused during his interrogation but are the result of reasonable and permissible physical pressure. The pathological report also said that they are superficial wounds, which are in no way linked to the death.

Our correspondent notes it is possible that in the wake of this affair a decision might be made to change some of the procedures in the medical checks detainees undergo when they arrive at prisons or lockups.

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Kibbutz Blasts

TA1202153592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has assumed responsibility for the two explosions the day before yesterday at Kibbutz Netzarim in the Gaza Strip. A young woman, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, and an Army tracker were injured by two bombs in the kibbutz packing house.

Hamas Leader Rescinds Appeal Against Life Term

TA1202154392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, who was sentenced to life imprisonment last year, has canceled his appeal of the sentence. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Yasin's attorney wrote that the Shaykh's action stems from personal reasons. Ahmad Yasin was convicted of leading Hamas, establishing the organization, and being responsible for the people who murdered the soldiers Sasportas and Sa'adon.

Senior Official Calls for 'Pressure' on Israel

PM1202115992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Feb 92 p 2

[By 'Ali Hamadah: "Damascus Urges Washington to Pressure Israel"]

[Excerpt] Paris—A senior Syrian official has confirmed that his country has no objection to participating in the bilateral negotiations called for by the United States, scheduled to be held on 24 February in Washington.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Damascus, however, the official, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that Syria would not go to the negotiating table if it did not feel that Washington, sponsor of the peace conference, was putting serious pressure on Israel to accept the principle adopted by the United States, which is "land for peace" on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

He added: Syria has reservations regarding the way the peace conference is going. It believes that multilateral negotiations should not precede bilateral negotiations, and that the Arabs should feel that the negotiations are not moving in a vicious circle used by Israel to gain time and procrastinate pending the elections in Israel and the United States.

The official said he feared that in the new round of bilateral negotiations, Israel might raise the issue of moving the talks from Washington to another venue and create an impossible situation for the Arabs by insisting that the venue be in the Middle East.

It was for these reasons, the official said, that in his discussions with government officials in Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed willingness to attend and did not wish for Syria to be seen as obstructing the peace process, but al-Asad explained more than once that Damascus would address clear questions to Washington, requiring clear answers, on the following points:

1. The scope of the negotiations, which should focus on the land for peace principle.

2. Washington should, as an arbiter, put serious pressure on Israel if it dithers and procrastinates by making procedural demands that would keep the talks within the bounds of formalities.

3. Implementation of the pledges and assurances included in Washington's letters to the Arab states invited to the negotiating table.

The senior Syrian official's statement confirms reports from Beirut maintaining that the Syrian and Lebanese presidents, who held a summit meeting in Damascus three days ago to coordinate their positions on the negotiations, decided to delay answering the U.S. invitation to allow more "Arab and international consultations and determine what serious results should be expected from the negotiations, because what Lebanon and Syria want is tangible and fundamental progress, not just a meeting." [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To 'Prove Its Credibility'

JN1302082892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0535 GMT 13 Feb 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Elections and Israel's Game of Wasting Time," AL-BA'TH notes the intensity of the U.S. election campaign and the paralysis afflicting the U.S. Administration's decisions as a result of this campaign. It says: The opportunity is arising for the Zionist lobby to pressure the candidates and make gains toward accomplishing the goals of Israel and world Zionism.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli Government will play the card of early elections in an effort to further dilute stances and waste the available opportunity for peace.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH adds: If the U.S. Administration is willing to seriously breathe life into the peace process, and push it along a road leading to a just and comprehensive peace, it should prove its credibility before the world and itself, and should advance its initiative before it collapses under the continuous Israeli maneuvers.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Hand Over 3 Uzbek POW's

BK1202144892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Afghan mojahedin today handed over three Uzbek prisoners of war [POWs] to the visiting Uzbek Russian delegation in Islamabad. The handing over ceremony held at the foreign office was attended, among others, by the Afghan leader, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, and high officials of the Russian Embassy. The POWs were released in response to the agreement concluded between the former Soviet Union and the Afghan mojahedin delegation during their negotiations in Moscow last November. Two POWs, Mr. (Rustom) and Mr. (Qasim), have refused to go back home till the liberation of Afghanistan and establishment of an Islamic government there. Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani said that mojahedin have taken the POW issue as humanitarian matter and have never used it for political motive. He said the Afghans want to have good relations with all newly independent states, particularly the Muslim republics.

Leader of the delegation, Mr. (Yeonov Andranov), said we are committed not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We will recognize the Afghan government once it is formed.

The member of the Uzbek parliament, Mr. (Niaz Matov Amanullah), thanked the government of Pakistan and the Afghan mojahedin leaders for their efforts to get the prisoners of war released.

Paper Views Najibollah's Optimism Over UN Plan

PM1202122692 Paris LE MONDE in French 12 Feb 92 p 4

[Jean-Pierre Clerc report: "Afghanistan: President Najibollah's Fight for Survival"]

[Excerpts] Kabul—Here he is before us, tense but forcing himself to show cordiality, the man who is the last of the flames lit by Mikhail Gorbachev still to be burning. Indeed it was the father of perestroyka who, shortly after his arrival in the Kremlin, installed Mr. Najibollah in power—the man who on 1 January 1980, immediately after the Soviet invasion, the KGB placed at the head of the Afghan political police, with the task of turning it into a professional body.

This man, a doctor by training, who was then 34 years old, carried out his task with an astonishing mixture of cruelty and subtlety. Thus in the minds of his protectors he supplanted Babrak Karmal who had been his political mentor since 1965 when, still a school student, he started his career as an agitator. [passage omitted]

Mr. Najibollah is exultant. "I am very very optimistic. I can see light at the end of the tunnel," he told us despite the fact that he is hard-pressed in his capital and only controls around six big cities and around 40 provincial capitals.

What is the reason for this state of mind? "The recent Pakistani statements on Afghanistan are a turning-point. This development has been welcomed here and by all peace-loving countries. We are now awaiting practical measures so that our relations can return to normal, as should be the case between neighbors. So, as is dictated by our peoples' interests, mutually beneficial cooperation will replace military confrontation." [passage omitted]

Mr. Najibollah has had other good news recently: "Almost all countries," he told us, "have now approved the UN plan, particularly all our neighbors and also Saudi Arabia. Butrus-Ghali, in his 28 January statement..., also called for an immediate end to the supply of funds intended to buy armaments. We therefore hope that all countries, including Saudi Arabia, will respect this last demand and thus do their Muslim duty toward the people of Afghanistan."

This was a well-aimed shot—the only capital whose position is still ambiguous is Riyadh. The Saudis think they cannot control "the solidarity of private individuals or groups," "in other words large-scale funds contributed by the Muslim Brotherhood in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries" for the benefit of the Afghan mojahedin.

Aside from that, Mr. Najibollah must have observed with satisfaction the gestures which Tehran has made toward it, including the recent dispatch to Kabul of two planeloads of food and medicines, a move which infuriated the most moderate of the mojahedin themselves, such as the members of Jami'at-e Eslami. These gifts were largely intended to prevent the exodus of the population from the center of the country to Iran, and the master of Kabul is also entitled to expect something in return—perhaps in the form of oil!

Mr. Najibollah is assiduously courting the Shiites who represent some 15 percent of the population, but who have been kept to the sidelines by all previous regimes. For instance, he has appointed one of them—Mr. Sorabi—as vice president. And, for the first time, he authorized their great Moharram procession through the streets of Kabul in 1991.

With regard to the new Central Asian Republics, three of which have common borders with Afghanistan, Mr. Najibollah is not shouting about the fact that their leaders—like him former Communists hastily converted to nationalism—are sending him as much aid as is compatible with the state of their own Muslim opinion and with their disastrous financial state. But he refers to "the traditional historical ties" between them. As regards Russia, he is announcing an "extension" of cooperation.

But all the indications are that Moscow above all wants to extricate itself from the Afghan hornet's nest. Mr. Najibollah has thus become unavoidable, both because of the divisions among his opponents and because of his

capacity to act as a rampart against the chaos which would follow any "political vacuum" in the capital or against the risks of a victory by the fundamentalists. [passage omitted]

In the short term, Mr. Najibollah is only really in danger from an attack, or a mutiny, or if one of the rockets which the mojahedin fire at Kabul to celebrate certain anniversaries were finally to hit its target. In the longer term his Islamic opponents could extend their territory, which is already vast but not very densely populated. But the capture of the capital or even of the five or six other big cities seems out of reach.

The head of state can therefore press his "plan" more firmly than ever to UN mediator Benon Sevan who is making increasingly frequent trips between Pakistan and Kabul. Mr. Najibollah thinks that, on the basis of a dialogue among all the Afghans initiated by the United Nations, a "lasting and reliable mechanism" should be established with a view to guaranteeing peace: a "coalition government" with his Islamic opponents in which, it is rumored, he would like to reserve for himself a key position, in the defense or security ministry. Thus the coming elections, the cornerstone of the UN plan, would not be too unfavorable to him. [passage omitted]

Rabbani—Kabul Regime Not Part of Solution

PM1202112792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 92 p 9

[Interview with Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, "acting minister of reconstruction in the interim Afghan mojahedin government and leader of the Islamic Front (al-jabhah al-islamiyah)," (Jami'iat-e Eslami) by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaydan] The United Nations recently presented a plan to convene a conference for the Afghans in order to resolve the Afghan issue. What is the Islamic Front's position on the conference?

[Rabbani] The front's position is that Afghanistan's territory should not be turned into a laboratory for testing plans. We know that the states welcomed the tripartite conference in Tehran, Islamabad, and the Islamic Conference Organization held in Ankara and blessed it. Then the mojahedin delegation visited Moscow and the friendly parties welcomed that step. With regard to the UN five-point solution, we do not see much in it.

The mojahedin expressed their positions openly and unanimously and rejected the existing regime in Kabul. The mojahedin, including the brothers who went to New York, were unanimous.

I believe that the situation has not changed. The mojahedin still maintain their previous position and will not allow the Kabul regime to be a party to a solution to the issue. This does not mean that the mojahedin do not want to cooperate, but the regime's inclusion is not new to them. If they want to impose in the United Nations' name things that are not in line with the aims of the mojahedin and the Afghan people, and want to exclude the mojahedin from Afghanistan's fateful decision, I believe this would be an abortive attempt that will not succeed.

We do not refuse to cooperate with international establishments, but this must not conflict with our interests. These establishments should protect justice, not murderers. They should help the oppressed, not the oppressor. In Afghanistan there is clear right, oppression, and a majority ruled by a minority controlling some positions. We want a solution quickly, and more than anyone else.

But the solution must come in a normal manner, not through evasion, which aborts all our moves.

So I call on international establishments, right, and justice to apply the logic of justice and equality.

[Zaydan] If a UN conference is convened and [former] Afghan King Zahir Shah and Najibollah and his group attend, would the society [al-jam'iyah] attend?

[Rabbani] The society will not participate in any conference that includes the regime. [passage omitted]

[Zaydan] Observers attributed the Bonn conference's failure to the U.S. rejection of it. How do you view that?

[Rabbani] I do not see it that way, as the United States wanted to thwart the Bonn conference. I believe that the Bonn plan was designed to explore the mojahedin's views. [passage omitted]

13 Killed in Hezb-e Eslami Internal Clashes

LD1202225292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Owing to internal differences between the men associated with the Hezb-e Eslami factions of Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] and Mawlawi Khales, fierce fighting flared up recently between them around Khogiani district, Nangarhar Province. According to the BAKHTAR military section, as a result of these clashes 13 men associated with the Hezb-e Eslami of Khales, including one of their ringleaders, were killed and several others were injured.

One rocket launcher and a large amount of ammunition belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami of Mawlawi Khales, were seized by the men associated with the Hezb-e Eslami of Golbuddin.

Bangladesh

Burma Returns Seized Arms, Ammunition

BK1202131692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] India has expressed concern over the situation at Bangladesh-Burma border where tens of thousands of Myanmar [Burma] Muslims have fled across the frontier to escape alleged persecution. An Indian Foreign Ministry press note said in New Delhi Tuesday [11 February] that India is concerned at the situation and hoped for a peaceful solution. It said New Delhi has assured Dhaka of support in finding ways to stop influx of Rohingyas [Burmese Muslims]. Meanwhile, about 45,760 Rohingya refugees have so far been enlisted in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Meanwhile, Myanmar has returned 32 arms and some ammunition to Bangladesh at the fourth flag meeting at Muangdaw. Official sources said in Chittagong Tuesday the arms included 27 rifles, two SMG [submachine gun] and one MG [machine gun]. They also returned some ammunition. The military forces of Myanmar took away these arms in a raid on Bangladesh border security camp in December last.

President Receives Pakistani Air Force Chief

BK1202133092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The visiting chief of air staff of Pakistan Air Force [PAF], Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban [president house] in Dhaka on Wednesday [12 February] morning. The PAF chief conveyed warm felicitations and regards to President Biswas from the president of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Exchanging views with the PAF chief, the president expressed the hope that existing friendly relations between the two countries will be strengthened further.

India

Forces on 'High Alert' in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1302120892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces are maintaining a high alert to foil any bid to cross over from the Pakistan side. There are no reports of any violation of the Line of Control. The entire area has been experiencing snow and rains since yesterday.

Elsewhere in the state, no untoward incident has been reported. Curfew in about eight police station areas of Srinagar is being strictly enforced. Official sources say there will be no relaxation in the day curfew today as a precautionary measure.

Muslims Defy Curfew; Police Fire at 500

BK1302111992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Srinagar, India, Feb 13 (AFP)—Hundreds of Muslims demanding independence defied a curfew and poured onto the streets of India-held Kashmir Thursday, before snowfall and Indian security forces dispersed them, witnesses said.

Three people were wounded when police fired at some 500 supporters of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) who tried to march at Anantnag, 55 kilometers (37 miles) south of here, the witnesses said.

Officials however declined comment on the firing.

Similar demonstrations also erupted in this summer capital of India's Kashmir state and police fired tear gas on one group of 100 youths, Senior Superintendent of Police Rajinder Kumar said.

The teargassing followed a noisy demonstration in which people shouted slogans hailing Amanullah Khan, the JKLF's Islamabad-based leader who tried Wednesday to lead a mass march from the Pakistan side of Kashmir into the Indian part to demand independence.

The marchers' attempt was halted by Pakistani authorities Wednesday, leaving up to 17 people dead and more than 300 injured, according to unofficial counts.

Small groups of JKLF supporters also staged rallies in narrow lanes of this Moslem-majority city, dispersing only when it began to snow, residents said.

Police and paramilitary forces cruised around Srinagar, reminding Kashmiris over loudspeakers of orders to shoot curfew violators. But pro-JKLF slogans continued to blare from rival loudspeakers fitted over mosques all over the city.

It was the third day of an indefinite curfew in most parts of Srinagar, the urban hub of the militant campaign to secede Kashmir.

It was first clamped on Tuesday, the eighth anniversary of the death of JKLF founder Maqbool Butt. The JKLF crossing was originally planned for Tuesday across the border of Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan.

The two countries have gone to war twice over the province.

A defence official said the border, known as the Line of Actual Control, was quiet but tense.

Pawar Hails Nawaz Sharif Remarks on War

BK1302115692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has described as positive the Pakistan prime minister's statement which said Islamabad has no interest in going into a fourth war with India. Speaking to newsmen in Calcutta today, Mr. Pawar said that Mr. Nawaz Sharif should honor it to keep the India-Pakistan relations out of tension.

Replying to a question, Mr. Pawar ensured that the present situation across the Line of Control and India-Pakistan border is normal. Mr. Pawar, who reviewed the working of ordnance factories in the eastern region during the last few days, said steps will be taken to boost the capacity of the ordnance factories in the country. He reiterated that besides fulfilling the defense requirements in the army, the sparable ordnance products will be diverted for use in the civil sector. He said the products will no longer be used by the army alone. These will also be catered to paramilitary and core sectors besides boosting up exports, the minister added.

Radio Reports Growing JKLF Disillusionment

BK1202161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, no violation of the Line of Control is reported so far today. The security forces are keeping up their vigil to foil any attempt to cross the Line of Control. The home minister says the security forces may continue in a state of high alert for the next few days to thwart any attempt by the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] to cross into the valley. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, Mr. S.B. Chavan said that the alert would continue as a precaution.

Our correspondent in Srinagar says there has been snow fall in areas near the Line of Control resulting in poor visibility. Curfew was reimposed in some areas of Srinagar city today as a precautionary measure. The authorities have decided not to relax the day curfew tomorrow. Some people tried to take our processions at a couple of places but their attempts were foiled. The situation is now reported to be under control.

The Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif told a news conference in Islamabad today that his country does not want a fourth war with India. He said he is confident that Pakistani security forces will be able to prevent the JKLF from reaching the Line of Control.

Our correspondent Rama Rao reports from Srinagar about the growing disillusionment among the ranks of the militants.

[Begin Rama Rao recording] The latest episode of the aborted plan by the so-called JKLF to cross the line of control has led to a feeling among the militants of their being used for ulterior purposes. This has resulted in a significant number of surrenders with arms—630 to be more precise—in the recent months. Reflecting the new ground reality, the people in the valley are coming out of their (?field) complex and extending cooperation to the authorities in maintaining law and order. As the governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena said this is evident from the request for setting up police bunkers in several localities of Srinagar city to prevent any militant attacks. [end recording]

Vigilance Against Pakistani 'Offensive' Urged

BK1302035592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Commentary by INDIAN EXPRESS Correspondent Pushp Saraf]

[Text] Although the chief of the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], Amanullah Khan, is reportedly under arrest, anxiety prevails as the drama continues on the other side of the Line of Control in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Indian forces have remained in a state of high alert. Nothing can be left to chance. Many observers justify the feeling in New Delhi that even though the February 11 deadline has passed, the JKLF volunteers can still try to cross the Line of Control.

Although the reports say that Pakistan security forces had opened fire to stop the marchers, Pakistan has all along encouraged terrorism in the Kashmir valley. There cannot be a better proof of its involvement than the fact that it has patronized Amanullah Khan and given him shelter to carry out his anti-India propaganda. It is ironical that Amanullah cannot speak Kashmiri, yet he claims to represent the Kashmiris. He does not belong to the valley, but he claims to be its leader. On both sides of the Line of Control, the people will be justified in asking why the Pakistan Government did not arrest Amanullah earlier if it wanted to prevent the march. Obviously the Pakistan Government was worried that Amanullah's arrest will expose the country's diabolical approach toward the valley.

India has no choice but to remain vigilant. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has done well to obtain the endorsement of all opposition parties in dealing with the situation in the manner his government deems fit. The opposition parties, whatever their ideological perception, have also risen to the occasion. On its part, the government must ensure that it meets Pakistan's offensive at all levels, including media and diplomacy. The government must also be careful that any subversive organization does not become an international focal point. At the moment, it can, perhaps, draw satisfaction from the fact that it has Pakistan to virtually disown its prodigy Amanullah. But a lot more needs to be done. The cult of the gun must be silenced in the valley so that common citizens feel relieved and a proper atmosphere is created for free and fair elections.

Foreign Secretary's Upcoming U.S. Visit Viewed

BK1202162692 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1426 GMT 12 Feb 92

["Spokesman's response to a query on foreign secretary's forthcoming visit to United States: dated 11-2-1992"]

[Text] Responding to a query on the visit of Foreign Secretary [FS] J.N. Dixit, to the United States next month, the spokesman clarified that there has been some kind of inaccuracy in portraying the foreign secretary's visit as being part of an effort to pave the way or to work out terms of references for the so-called "five-nations conference." The spokesman categorically denied the suggestion that has been made in some sections of press and said that this is absolutely incorrect and conveys a completely wrong picture.

The spokesman said that this is the first visit of the foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit, to the United States. He is going for bilateral consultations at foreign secretary level. He would be talking about bilateral relations and a wide variety of multilateral issues. He will be discussing defence cooperation which has been increasing in recent times. He will talk about ways and means about enhancing economic interaction with the United States. He will be talking about improvement of bilateral ties in the field of science and technology. He will be talking about situation in the former Soviet Union and difficulties which are being faced by Commonwealth of Independent States, our own ties with them. He will be talking about the role of the Security Council, and the entire range of issues of international, regional, and bilateral significance which would include the question of nonproliferation.

Iran

Tehran To Repatriate Smuggled Kuwaiti Aircraft

LD1302111492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, 13 Feb (KUNA)—Iran announced officially today that it is going to hand over to Kuwait six Airbus planes which Iraq seized when it occupied Kuwait and smuggled out to the Islamic Republic of Iran after repainting them. The planes were smuggled out to protect them from the air raids launched by the allies.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati informed Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id and the delegation accompanying him, which is currently visiting Iran, that "Kuwait can take these aircraft immediately and as from today." He added that "all the Kuwaitis have to do now is provide the crews to take the planes back to Kuwait as soon as possible and without any conditions."

He added that Iran does not want to keep these planes; it has a large fleet of aircraft of its own. The Iranian stand on these planes has been made public more than once, he asserted.

Dr. Velayati went on to say that he accepts the invitation extended to him by Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to visit Kuwait in the next few days. The visit will take place as soon as a date has been fixed, he stated. He also expressed the hope that Kuwait will, through its position in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), contribute to bolstering and consolidating cooperation between Kuwait and Iran on the one hand and between Iran and the rest of the GCC member states on the other. He added in this respect that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to strengthen these relations.

Dr. Velayati also expressed his great joy at Kuwait's liberation and said that Iran was one of the states that condemned the aggression against Kuwait less than 24 hours after the invasion. He indicated that Iran categorically refused to stand by Iraq despite the numerous inducements with which Iraq tried to persuade it to do so.

IRIB Condemns U.S. 'False Advocates of Democracy'

LD1202202692 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) today regretted that the American Cable News Network (CNN) had played a role in Washington's decision not to grant visa to an IRIB delegate invited to attend a CNN seminar in Atlanta last month.

In a letter sent to the CNN President Tom Johnson, the IRIB's Vice-President for Political Affairs Abdolnasser Hemmati referred to the "censorship prevailing in the American media, including the CNN" and said that despite "their absurd seminars in support of democracy" the American media could not tolerate "even a 5-minute long speech including the views of the representatives of independent nations."

Hemmati said the IRIB had decided to send a delegate to the CNN "World Report Conference" in Atlanta following repeated requests by the CNN for three consecutive years.

The CNN president said at that time that the U.S. State Department had rejected visa application for the Iranian delegate.

But Hemmati told Johnson in his letter that "the most optimistic assumption was that the U.S. State Department did not care at all for your request and persistence, although the coordination of the CNN's news policy with the U.S. Administration's stances induced other assumptions."

Hemmati said he had been informed that the line of the IRIB delegate's speech had been handed over to the CIA by the CNN for approval and that the CIA had

advised the State Department not to grant the visa because of the Iranian delegate's support for freedom and justice which "were contradictory to the U.S. foreign policy."

"This is not the first time that false advocates of democracy among American statesmen are being unmasked by a broadminded Muslim or by the representative of an Islamic movement. The world that cares for freedom witnesses scandals like this by the false advocates of democracy every day and across the world," concluded the letter.

Rushdie Fatwa Reaffirmed on Third Anniversary

NC1302123092 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb 13 (AFP)—Iran called Thursday on Muslims worldwide to execute British author Salman Rushdie and described his death sentence issued exactly three years ago as "a divine command to stone the devil to death."

All Iranian political and religious leaders upheld the February 14, 1989 "fatwa" that late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni issued against Rushdie for blaspheming Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses," radical papers said.

As Iran seeks influence among the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, the radical newspaper ABRAR said that Khomeyni "did not limit himself to the geographic borders of Iran, but addressed the Islamic world."

Abrar said: "More than a billion Muslims in the world see themselves obliged to carry out this religious sentence."

The order against Rushdie, a Muslim of Indian origin, was issued by Khomeyni "in conformity with the fundamental principles which guide the Islamic religion," it said.

In a special supplement, the radical JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper published extracts of statements from Iranian leaders of all political and religious views who it said supported the death sentence.

The newspaper headline described the order as "a divine command to stone the devil."

Addressed to "zealous Muslims of the world," the brief fatwa says the author of "The Satanic Verses" and the editors who knew its contents and published the book are sentenced to death.

It asks all Muslims to contribute "directly or indirectly" to Rushdie's execution—directly by their own acts or indirectly by providing information on the author's hiding place.

Rushdie has lived in hiding since the fatwa was issued.

The fatwa remains an obstacle to improving relations between Britain and Iran, which were broken in March 1988 and restored in September 1990 at the level of charge d'affaires.

IAEA Official—No Nuclear Threat Seen

LD1202184992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The deputy director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] announced that Iranian nuclear installations are aimed at only peaceful means and pose no nuclear threat.

Mr. Jennekens, deputy director general of the IAEA, who has come to Tehran to inspect Iranian nuclear installations, took part in a news conference this evening. He rejected foreign media propaganda that suggest Iran is becoming armed with nuclear weapons. He rejected any reports in that regard and stressed: I, together with my accompanying delegation, inspected various parts of the Iranian nuclear installations and could not find a single suspicious case.

He added: The efforts of the Iranian experts are aimed at medical, agricultural, and other peaceful means, which I will file a report on as soon as I return to the Agency's headqurters.

Finally, he thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stances which always support nuclear-free zones.

Paper Warns Azerbaijan, Armenia Against U.S.

NC1302103692 Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb 13 (AFP)—The TEHRAN TIMES on Wednesday promoted Iran as the best mediator between warring Armenia and Azerbaijan and warned them not to be lured by hollow promises of aid during a current U.S. mission to central Asia.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to areas north of Iran also comes as Washington "wants greater Turkish influence in the former Soviet Union's central Asian republics," the English-language paper added.

"The hurried reactions by the United States became more intense when both the two republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia called for Iranian mediation over the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh," the paper close to the Tehran government said.

Iran would be a "just and neutral mediator" in the war over the Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan, the paper said, because 200,000 ethnic Armenians live in Iran and Azeris and Iranians are both Shiite Muslims.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have centuries of ties with Iran, it added.

"Iran truly wants to remove the crisis from this point north of its borders," the TIMES said.

"Both the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia know that the promises of financial aid given by Baker have no practical backing and the best example is the terrible situation of the republic of Russia at present," it said.

"Instead of the promised billions of dollars in aid for rescuing the ailing Russian economy, we are seeing today that only some amounts of food and medicine (are) being sent, thus dealing a humiliating blow to Russia."

Azerbaijani Official Visits, Comments on Islam

LD1202142792 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran has paved the way for salvation of humanity, the visiting press minister of the newly-independent Azerbaijan Republic Saber Rostam Khanli [name as received] said here Wednesday. He said that definitely the Islamic revolution will attract many nations.

Khanli condemned the worldwide vicious propaganda against Iran and said that he has been highly impressed by Iran's power and stability. The Azeri official who arrived here last week refuted a recent report in an Egyptian paper distorting his statements. The paper misquoted him as having said that Azeris in Iran were under pressure. He termed the report as "totally baseless."

He noted that Islam by respecting cultural and national characteristics of individual nations works for greater unity and fraternity among them. "In my opinion, Islam is the only power that can protect the world against the threat of war and destruction," the Azeri minister who is a famous poet and writer stressed.

He said that in light of full freedom of Azeris in Iran and the outstanding role they play in the public and private sectors, separation of Azerbaijan provinces from Iran and formation of an independent Azerbaijan is absolutely out of question.

Of course, he added, Azerbaijan provinces in Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan could establish fraternal ties but this has been undermined by the recent introduction of Latin alphabets, replacing the former Russian alphabets.

"This new barrier between people of Azerbaijan provinces in Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan is more dangerous than the former border barriers," he remarked.

UN Envoy Briefs Velayati on Afghanistan Talks

LD1202212992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Benon Sevan, the UN secretary general's undersecretary and special UN envoy for Afghanistan who is in Tehran, met this morning with Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. At this meeting Mr. Sevan described the outcome of his meetings and talks with relevant officials in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He also commented on the UN secretary general's proposals for solving the Afghanistan issue and for organizing a meeting with the participation of leaders and representatives interested in the affairs of Afghanistan. In conclusion, he thanked Iran for assisting the deprived people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, too, expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the efforts of the UN secretary general, and the proposals put forward for solving the Afghanistan question. He emphasized that by removing some of the ambiguities in these proposals, it can be hoped that an effective step will be taken toward solving this difficulty.

Velayati Meets Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker

LD1302114992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. al-Masa'id, speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, met with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati today. During the meeting, as well as discussing bilateral relations, they exchanged views on international and regional issues.

At the meeting Mr. al-Masa'id, whose government is the rotating president of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, said that this council had recently issued a statement in which cooperation with Iran was stressed. He added: the Kuwaiti minister of defense has announced that no security cooperation could materialize without Iran.

Drawing attention to the previous invitation extended by the Kuwaiti foreign minister to Mr. Velayati, the Kuwaiti Assembly speaker expressed the hope that he would visit Kuwait as soon as possible. Mr. Velayati said: We believe that cooperation among the regional countries could prevent calamities such as those which took place during the past 10 years. He added that he hopes to be able to visit Kuwait in the near future, in response to the invitation from that country's foreign minister.

Cuban Minister Meets Velayati, Praises Ties

LD1202151192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The Cuban deputy foreign minister, who is in Tehran and who met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning, expressed his pleasure over being in Iran during the period marking the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He also referred to the two countries' joint economic commission, which is due to meet in the near future, saying: We would like to expand economic ties and bilateral cooperation.

Mr. Velayati, referring to the good relations between the two countries, said: The coming meeting of the joint economic commission of Iran and Cuba can play a constructive role in strengthening economic-commercial cooperation.

Pakistan

Further Reports on Kashmir Crossing Events

JKLF Leader Arrested, 'Snatched' Back

BK1302062692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Feb 13 (AFP)—The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said Thursday they had freed their leader from military arrest and would resume their march on Indian-held Kashmir "as soon as possible."

Up to 17 people died according to Pakistan press reports and more than 100 were injured on Wednesday as thousands of marchers clashed with security forces who blocked their march near Chinari, eight kilometres (five miles) from the border between the Pakistan- and Indian-held parts of Kashmir.

The official death toll remains at seven, with 22 people seriously injured.

The JKLF, campaigning for an independent Kashmir, said Wednesday that their leader Amanullah Khan and 150 other marchers had been arrested by Pakistan security forces, a claim the Pakistani authorities denied.

JKLF spokesman Mohammed Iqbal said Khan's supporters had "snatched" him from the military, but did not elaborate.

Bad weather was delaying the march but it would resume from Chinari as soon as possible, he said, denying that any negotiations were taking place with the authorities.

In New Delhi the Indian army, closely monitoring Pakistani troopers holding back the Muslim militants from entering Indian-held Kashmir, said Thursday no one had yet succeeded in crossing the border.

An Indian Army spokesman said at 11:00 a.m. (0530 GMT) that latest reports received here indicated that JKLF militants had been checked from storming the Line of Control.

"The Pakistanis are keeping a tight and close [word indistinct] and are not allowing anyone to come in (to Indian-held Kashmir)," the official said from the defence ministry complex.

"Not a single chap has so far crossed," he said, but added that he could not say if the JKLF activists were still trying to break through the line dividing the Indian and Pakistani sides of partitioned Kashmir.

Military sources said the Defence Ministry was keeping round-the-clock vigil on the situation, and army officers were in contact with their counterparts on the other side of the line of control.

Khan Calls Off March

BK1302122292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Feb 13 (AFP)—Kashmiri militants' leader Amanullah Khan on Thursday called off his independence march into Indian-held Kashmir.

"The (Pakistan) army had orders to shoot and I did not want to have many people killed," he told AFP by telephone.

"It has been called off," said the leader of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front.

12 Feb Clashes Detailed

BK1202150892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Chinari, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Feb 12 (AFP)—At least seven people were killed and 22 injured Wednesday as thousands of Kashmiri marchers clashed with Pakistani police before they were halted near the border with Indian-held Kashmir, officials said.

In Islamabad, an official said the march had been blocked four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the border town of Chakoti as the official toll in clashes between Pakistani police and marchers reached seven, with 22 injured.

The official told AFP that the marchers, their ranks considerably reduced, "could go no further" after nightfall and none had crossed into India.

The clashes occurred between thousands of pro-independence marchers and civilian security forces, and the army was never involved, he said.

They came after the marchers—estimated at up to 20,000 by their organisers—defied all earlier security force attempts to stop them crossing to the Indian side of the border.

Unofficial sources said six people were killed and 150 injured. A witness said he saw at least three bodies being removed from the scene.

The prime minister of Kashmir state, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, said in the state capital, Muzaffarabad, that negotiations with Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Amanullah Khan were under way and that many marchers were turning back.

Witnesses said militants took five police hostages and snatched nine rifles during the battle near Chakothi.

Police said two of their own were killed in the clashes, but JKLF officials said only one police officer was stoned to death.

The JKLF said police rolled down boulders from mountain tops, causing many casualties.

Police fired tear gas shells and baton charged the crowds to stop them dismantling barbed wire and other obstacles erected by security forces at Kotla Bridge, only four kilometers (2.5 miles) from the border, to stop the marchers.

Officials said the bridge, on the edge of a prohibited zone, was the first hurdle manned by police close to the frontier. Beyond that the army had been deployed in the area up to the Line of Control before Indian-held territory.

A Pakistan military spokesman in Rawalpindi said "if the civilian authorities do not manage to control the situation the army will do its job."

On the other side of the Line of Control, India said its troops would shoot to kill if the marchers crossed.

In Muzaffarabad, worried relatives thronged a local military hospital as ambulances brought in casualties.

A doctor said more than 20 injured and a dead body had been admitted and that at least five of the wounded were in serious condition.

Many had bullet wounds, a doctor, Tanvir Shafi, told AFP. He added that the casualties included young and middle-aged people.

Ambulance vehicles, belonging to the Edhi Welfare Trust (EWT), a leading private humanitarian organization, transported the casualties over a distance of about 50 kilometers (35 miles) to the Kashmiri state capital.

An EWT helicopter also shuttled between Chakoti, near the line of control, and Muzaffarabad to lift the critically wounded.

People outside the hospital, holding umbrellas under pouring rain, shouted "Allah-o-Akbar," or God is Great. Swarming around the casualty ward, they rushed up to the injured as they were brought in on stretchers.

In Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, authorities reimposed a curfew Wednesday after security forces opened fire and wounded five people in an effort to quell street protests by Moslem separatists demonstrating their support for the Pakistan marchers.

Qayyum told reporters the marchers "wanted to create a disaster" between India and Pakistan by escalating tension, adding "we cannot allow anybody to put Pakistan's security at stake."

Asked if the government planned to take action against the JKLF, Qayyum said "some people would be taken to task after the trouble is over." [passage omitted]

Azad Kashmir Spokesman on Events

BK1302025892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] A spokesman of Azad Kashmir government in Muzaffarabad has disclosed some details of yesterday's incident at the Line of Control [LOC]. He said the participants of a march were stopped in (Sayeeda) Valley. However, the demonstrators pelted stone on the police injuring the additional superintendent of Muzaffarabad police, [word indistinct] of Chinari and eight other policemen. The authorities once again started negotiations with the marchers when they were just two miles from the Line of Control and told them how their march would create complications. The marchers, after realizing the delicacy of the matter, agreed to reach an understanding with the authorities which helped in stopping the march and they returned.

Kashmir Minister Comments

BK1302113892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The federal minister for Kashmir affairs, Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, has categorically stated that there was no firing yesterday on the marchers attempting to cross the Line of Control. In a statement in the National Assembly today, he said only three people died during the march because of a stampede. He said the Pakistan and Azad Kashmir governments exercised utmost restraint in dealing with the marchers who were going toward the Line of Control to express solidarity with the freedom fighters. He said the attempt to cross the line would not have served the cause of freedom struggle.

The minister said at Chinari efforts were made to persuade the marchers to return but they refused to (?talk) and insisted on crossing the Line of Control. They broke the first barricade, which resulted in a scuffle with the Azad Kashmir police who used tear gas. However, 35 to 40 people, including Mr. Amanullah Khan [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader] breached the third barricade. At this point they were asked to stop and Mr. Amanullah Khan agreed to return if the arrested supporters were released.

Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan offered a full debate on Kashmir in the house. He made this statement as Chaudhary Altaf Hussain and the other PDA [Pakistan Democratic Alliance] members wanted to move a motion to discuss the entire situation. [passage omitted]

Azad Kashmir Head—Issue Settled

BK1202163692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that nearly 58 people of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] who were arrested near Chinari have been released today and a compromise has been reached with the front leaders, thereby settling the whole issue peacefully. He was addressing a news conference in Muzaffarabad this evening. He said that a total of 21 people, including three policemen, were injured due to a stampede following police action near Chakoti today. One person died. He said that some miscreants spread a rumor that they found some dead bodies.

These elements spread the rumor for political reasons. Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said that 14 injured people have been admitted at Combined Military Hospital in Muzaffarabad while seven others at Chinari hospital. He said that no one intended to shoot any of the people who wanted to cross the Line of Control. The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir said that we have saved Pakistan and Kashmir from a great disaster at the cost of a little loss for which we are sorry. He said that we care for the security of Pakistan and cannot even think of acquiring any benefit by putting its security at stake.

Premier on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue, Afghanistan

BK1202152192 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has strongly urged the international community to force India to resolve the Kashmir dispute and bring to an end the untold sufferings of the Kashmiri people. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that the international community must exert its influence over India to stop atrocities on innocent Kashmiris who are struggling for their right of self-determination.

Reviewing the latest situation following Kashmiris' march toward the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said:

[Begin Sharif recording] You are well aware of Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmiris' right of self-determination. I need not reiterate our feelings and sentiments on the issue. These were amply demonstrated on 5 February when the entire Pakistani nation and all Kashmiri people responded to my call for expression of solidarity with the struggling Kashmiris. Pakistan holds the cause of the Kashmiri people very close to its heart. We cannot therefore let indiscretion bring harm to this cause.

The insistence of Mr. Amanullah on leading some innocent Kashmiris to the Indian firing line across the Line of Control is like throwing innocent people into the fire. The government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is therefore taking all possible measures to prevent these people from crossing the Line of Control.

The Government of Pakistan will extend every possible assistance to the government of Azad Kashmir in these efforts. It is in the interests of India, Pakistan, and the region that the people of Kashmir are allowed their right of self-determination without further delay as spelt out in the United Nations Security Council resolutions. [end recording]

Describing the situation as tense between the security forces and Kashmiri marchers, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the overall situation is very difficult as people are charged with emotions and even aggressive. They are struggling for their homeland. Yet, we hope we will be able to prevent them from crossing the line.

[Begin Sharif recording] As you know, there are people who already assembled since yesterday near the Line of Control and they are only a few kilometers short of the border. The Azad Kashmir government is trying to prevent all those who assembled there to cross the Line of Control, and even now people are insisting to move forward and to cross the line.

I think it is about time that India should realize the seriousness of the matter and resolve this issue, the Kashmir issue, without further delay. Because today the Kashmiris are trying to cross the Line of Control. We can prevent them today, we will try to do that, we can do this again. But then how far can we keep on doing this if they insist on crossing the Line of Control? There is something which, of course, is a great problem. And India must also realize, the world community has to see what Pakistan has done today to stop the Kashmiris from crossing the Line of Control. But, it will be difficult for us to do it again and again if this happens. [end recording]

Answering a question, the prime minister said that the present government has always emphatically highlighted the Kashmir issue at every forum. The prime minister said even during his recent meetings with the Indian leaders the Kashmir issue has been the main focus of discussion. The Indian leaders in the past have been saying that Kashmir is an integral part of India. But at the Davos meeting, his Indian counterpart, Mr. Narasimha Rao, had admitted that the Kashmir dispute continues to be the major irritant in the development of Pak-India relations.

[Video shows Indian Prime Minister Rao speaking] [Begin Rao recording] Kashmir always comes into discussion. But at no time did we talk only of Kashmir. Kashmir is a part of the whole gamut of relations. It is an important issue in our relations. [end recording]

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif hoped that in the wake of the latest situation in Kashmir, India would realize the significance of immediate resolution of the Kashmir problem for ensuring peace in the region.

Replying to a question about the forthcoming ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit meeting, he said he expects positive outcome of the deliberations. Three Central Asian republics are also expected to join the organization.

To another question, the prime minister said that Pakistan supports nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and this objective has to be achieved. He said whatever nuclear capability Pakistan possesses it is only for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan supports the UN secretary general's five-point plan for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He said we also support the proposed convening of a jerga [Afghan assembly] for resolving the problem, as we wish a speedy settlement of this long-standing dispute.